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THE TIMES

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THURSDAY APRIL 4 1996

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EC faces legal challenge on beef boycott

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

MINISTERS last night attacked Britain's "unhelpful" European partners for refusing to lift the worldwide ban on beef products as the Government confirmed plans for a selective slaughter of 4.6 million older cattle.

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, unveiled plans to provide financial help to beleaguered farmers and slaughterhouse owners, and threatened to take legal action over the "unjustified" European Union ban on British beef.

The ban is certain to stay in place for at least another month despite Britain's proposal to destroy cattle when they reach the end of their working lives. However, Mr Hogg told the Commons: "It is very, very important that we secure a lifting of the ban and I have to say that the justifications that I have heard for the imposition and the maintenance of the ban do not seem to me to have arguments which are founded on logic or science.

"As to the legality, we are looking earnestly and urgently at the legality of what has been done," he added.

Under the new measures, no cattle over the age of 30 months can be used for human or animal feed or in the manufacture of cosmetic or pharmaceutical products. This means that about 15,000 old and no longer productive cows and breeding bulls a week will have to be destroyed after slaughter.

Farmers will receive compensation of about £480 a head which will cost £390 million a year, of which the EU will pay 70 per cent. Britain will have to pay the cost of disposing of the carcasses which could be £100 million a year.

By April 30 Britain must present the EU with a plan for the compulsory slaughter and destruction of "animals and/or herds identified as being most likely to have been

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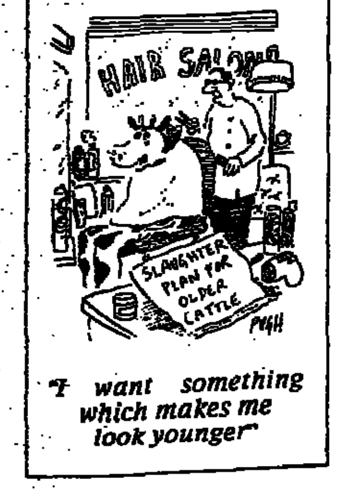
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TONY HARRIS

Shipping magnate George Fraghistas (right) with Commander Roy Ramm. "This has been a terrifying ordeal," Mr Fraghistas said. "I wondered if I would ever be freed."

Yard foils £5m kidnapping

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL, DOMINIC KENNEDY
RICHARD DUCE AND BILL FROST

A GREEK shipping magnate told yesterday how he feared for his life as he was kept blindfold and drugged in a cupboard for nine days by a gang of armed kidnappers demanding a £5 million ransom.

George Fraghistas, who had been abducted close to his London home on March 24, was found after a huge police surveillance operation that led to the arrest of four men. He was described as "very disturbed, very worried, very upset and very frightened".

Mr Fraghistas, 43, said: "This has been a terrifying ordeal for me and my family. I feared for my safety and wondered if I would ever be freed. I am grateful to the police for my release.

"I didn't have any sleep and I don't feel very well. It's very difficult. I am not in any position to really be able to describe things that happened to me. I am still in shock."

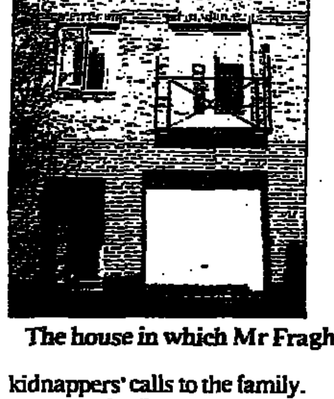
Mr Fraghistas, a bachelor who lives alone, was kidnapped after parking his car near his home in Maida Vale at 6.20 pm. He was bundled into a car boot at gunpoint, gagged with tape and handcuffed. One of the kidnappers climbed into the boot with him before the car drove off to 5 Hogan Mews, Paddington, the three-storey rented house that was to become his prison.

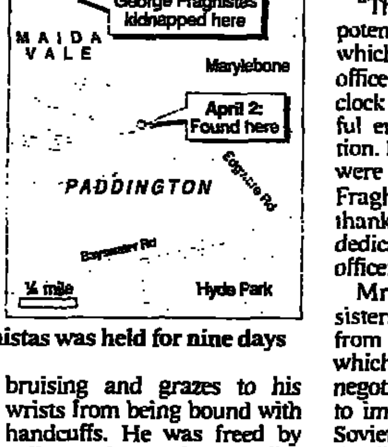
Once inside, he was locked in a 6ft by 3ft walk-in cupboard with a chair in it. His spectacles were taken from him, and he was masked and forced to wear earmuffs throughout his ordeal. He was handcuffed for the first few days and although the gag was also removed, he was given tranquillisers to keep him quiet.

From time to time he was forced to make tape recordings that were used to reinforce some fifty telephoned ransom demands to his family, who notified the police soon after Mr Fraghistas disappeared.

The first call was made to his relatives in London and Greece within 36 hours of his abduction and the kidnappers are believed to have demanded up to £5 million, although no money was handed over.

Scotland Yard's organised crime group and intelligence directorate launched a massive round-the-clock surveillance operation involving more than fifty officers — many of them armed — at any one time and the arrests came late on Tuesday night as police were intercepting one of the kidnappers' calls to the family. Commander Roy Ramm, who led the operation, said: "We decided to arrest two suspects who were actually using the telephone while we were receiving a call at the family home. We managed to grab the phone and prove that that was a contact between the two men and the family."





The house in which Mr Fraghistas was held for nine days

Those two men were held in a street in Golders Green, another was held outside Hogan Mews and the fourth was inside the building. Commander Ramm said: "Poor Mr Fraghistas was found inside. Still locked in the cupboard.

"He was in a state of shock and still is, and suffering extreme distress. He suffered bruising and grazes to his wrists from being bound with handcuffs. He was freed by police and seen by a police forensic medical examiner. He did not require hospital treatment. The kidnappers had threatened to kill the victim. However, he does not appear to have received any other physical harm."

Commander Ramm said that two of the arrested men were French and two Greek, none of them known to Mr Fraghistas. Last night two of them were being questioned in Belgravia and the others were at Paddington police station.

Commander Ramm added: "This was quite clearly a carefully orchestrated and planned incident, involving a specifically targeted victim which was carried out by a team who had clearly been planning it for some time.

"This was a difficult and potentially dangerous inquiry which has involved teams of officers working around the clock to bring about a successful end to this kidnap situation. I am very pleased that we were able to secure Mr Fraghistas's safe release, thanks to the professionalism, dedication and bravery of my officers."

Mr Fraghistas, who has two sisters and a brother, comes from an old shipping family which made its fortune by negotiating the exclusive right to import crude oil from the Soviet Union to Greece during the dictatorship of 1967-74. He now controls a fleet of four tankers from his West End business, World Carrier London, but he prefers to call himself an agent rather than an owner.

His ships fly under Maltese or Panamanian flags, to the distress of his compatriots, who regard him as a "lone wolf". He is not a member of the Greek shipping committee in London and he keeps a low-profile within the Greek community.

His chauffeur and bodyguard George Banks describes him as a very private person. "He is not flashy with his wealth and he is liked by everyone who knows him."

Mr Banks said that he had not slept for ten days worrying about his employer. "As they days went by I got more worried. But I never gave up hope." The police had called him yesterday to say that Mr Fraghistas had been released and when they were reunited his boss had hugged him and kissed him on both cheeks, saying "Thank God you are here."

Mr Banks said: "He had lost weight but otherwise he seemed fine. He's with his mother and family now and I think they will probably return to Greece soon."

The £300,000 house where Mr Fraghistas had been held captive had been rented last September by two men who said they were brothers who wanted to be close to an aunt who was seriously ill in hospital with cancer. The agent acting for the Nigerian property owner described them as gentle and unassuming.

Howard unveils tougher prison sentences

BY RICHARD FORD, FRANCES GIBB AND ALICE THOMSON

MICHAEL HOWARD yesterday unveiled the most far-reaching sentencing reforms this century and promised tough American-style prison terms for persistent burglars and criminals convicted of repeated sexual and violent offences.

The Home Secretary's proposals put him on a collision course with the judiciary, who were astonished at the extent of his plans and issued a warning that they would cause injustice.

Lord Donaldson of Lymington, a former Master of the Rolls, said the plans would see judges forced to pass "unjust" sentences and declaring publicly that they did not agree with the penalties they were required to impose.

The pre-election tone of his White Paper brought cheers from Conservative MPs and support from the police but prison governors and penal reform groups said the prison population was likely to increase by 10,000.

Mr Howard told MPs in a Commons statement that the proposals were needed to ensure that convicted criminals would be properly punished. "The proposals are aimed at protecting the public from those who persistently commit offences which cause particular public concern — serious violent or sexual offences, drug-dealing and domestic burglary," he said.

"These proposals are tough, and they should be. They are needed to protect the public and to build a safer Britain".

The measures will form a key part of the Queen's Speech in November and Mr Howard wants them to become law

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US commerce secretary's plane crashes in the sea off Croatia

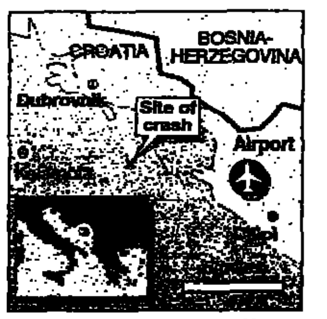
BY TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON, STACY SULLIVAN IN TUZLA AND MICHAEL EVANS

AN AIRCRAFT carrying Ron Brown, the American Commerce Secretary, and a delegation of American industrialists crashed in stormy weather off the Croatian port of Dubrovnik yesterday.

Croatian officials said last night that they had found the plane's tail as well as four bodies — three men and a woman. There were 27 people aboard, including crew. A search by helicopters and divers was continuing. A Royal Navy Sea King helicopter, based at Split, was involved in the search and rescue operation last night.

The US Air Force T43 plane, the military version of the Boeing 737, disappeared from radar screens in the morning and was later reported to be three hours overdue before officials at the White House finally confirmed that the wreckage spotted off the Adriatic coastline belonged to the American flight.

The area has suffered vicious southerly winds for the past three days with few commercial flights being allowed to land at the airport.



Ron Brown was flying from Tuzla to Dubrovnik

It was a measure of the importance of Mr Brown as the leading black in the Democratic Party, which he chaired during the presidential campaign, that President Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore, immediately cancelled all engagements. There was no evidence of hostile action against the aircraft by any of the former warring parties in the Balkans.

The flight, en route from Tuzla to Dubrovnik where the delegation had planned top level meetings with senior members of the Croatian political and business community, went down at sea between the tiny island of Kalamota, a few miles southwest of the Adriatic port, and the inland Cilipi airport.

The Commerce Secretary had spent the day visiting US troops at bases around Tuzla and meeting local businessmen.

In August last year, three key American negotiators, led by Robert Frasure, the special envoy to the former Yugoslavia, were killed when the armoured vehicle in which they were passengers slid down a ravine near Sarajevo and exploded.

Mr Brown had been planning to spend three days in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, meeting American troops but ostensibly holding talks with politicians and local businessmen to lend United States support to rebuilding the region after 42 months of conflict.

Mr Brown has been under investigation for fraud, and last week the investigation into his alleged financial tricks was extended to his son.

Mr Clinton, a staunch proponent of Mr Brown's avid liberalism, talked to the secretary's wife, Alma, shortly after hearing of the incident. Jesse Jackson, the civil rights activist, said he had prayed with both the President and Mrs Brown.

"Ron Brown was a faithful public servant and, if the worst has happened, we must remember that he was in his full stride, travelling across the world, connecting people," he said.

Bosnian victims, page 14

Briton killed in Angola ambush

Three aid workers, including a Briton, were shot dead in an ambush in Angola. Oxfam said last night that Chris Seward, 46, from Essex, its deputy representative in Angola, was killed when his United Nations vehicle was attacked 60 miles from the coastal town of Benguela. The nationalities of the other two workers are unkown.

Flotation threat to the Woolwich

The £3 billion stock market flotation of the Woolwich Building Society has been put in jeopardy by the sudden departure of Peter Robinson, its chief executive. The society said that it had no intention of calling in the police to investigate allegations concerning irregularities over Mr Robinson's expenses..............Page 3

Neo-Nazis jailed

Five leaders of South Africa's neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement have been each sentenced to 26 years' imprisonment for their roles in a bombing campaign by the movement shortly before the first democratic elections in 1994..........................Page 16

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Scientifically speaking, MPs sign a definite article of intent

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

As the Commons rose yesterday for a fortnight's Easter recess, your sketchwriter looked back over a session which, since Christmas, has looked strangely unreal. Like the Sea of Galilee, the Commons chamber has been a small place capable of working itself up without warning into surprisingly fierce storms, which subside just as fast.

The most recent, on "mad cow" disease, had all but blown itself out as MPs packed for Easter. But we are left with a powerful memory of a weird interlude: March was the month Science invaded the chamber.

Or, rather, "the" Science. Precisely when the definite article appeared is unclear, but, by the time of his Turin statement on Monday, John Major was referring, like other MPs, to "the Science". Earlier, a group we used to call scientists had been subtlely adjusted in MPs' vocabulary to "the scientists". These slight changes are significant. Science and its practitioners were being unconsciously elevated by politicians from the status of a body of sometimes divergent opinion practised by people who sometimes disagree (as politics and politicians are) to the status of a single, sovereign body of agreed knowledge: "the Science", against which there was no appeal.

In truth, politicians have been looking for something bigger to hold their hand. Time and again at the dispatch box the Prime Minister has deferred to a greater authority. Time and again Tony Blair has bowed to the same superior authority: never mind what politicians thought, what did the Science think? What did the Science say? In vain did Dennis Skinner protest that scientists could advise as they pleased — and sometimes advised wrongly — but it was politicians who must make the final judgment. This deference of political authority to science has two explanations. The obvious one is that scientists know more about BSE prions than MPs do; but in fact, the closer the Commons has approached that knowledge the more of a chimera it has seemed, irritatingly unready to relieve politicians of their duty to make judgments.

The second explanation is less obvious but, I believe, cuts deep. Politicians have lost, or feel they have lost, moral authority. Prime ministers do not expect us to take their word for it any longer; opposition leaders know we know they have axes of their own to grind, and no longer expect their own word to be trusted: "Not my words, Madam Speaker, but those of Seac ..."

Is there, we wonder, a committee of experts to which the question of Britain joining a single European currency could soon be deferred? Can a body of academics be found to advise on NHS reforms or pensions policy?

The year started as reverberations from the report of the Nolan committee died away. Nolan was appointed because, presumably, politicians felt they lacked the perceived moral authority to set their own house in order. With the new year has come the report of Sir Richard Scott. Appointed for the same reasons, his words have been picked through in politics like scripture. "Not my words, Madam Speaker, but ..." When oil was spilt off Milford Haven, MPs, distrusting the Department of Transport, called for Lord Griffiths to tell us what went wrong.

Nolan, Scott, Griffiths, Seac, these are the saints whose miracles our national leaders now ask us to accept as speaking for an authority that no longer seems to speak for itself.

Cattle industry facing 'financial meltdown'

By Michael Hornsby, agriculture correspondent

FARMERS, abattoir operators, livestock auctioneers and beef exporters issued a warning yesterday that the cattle industry was facing financial meltdown unless it received urgent help from the Government.

Businesses were running out of cash because they could not sell the huge stocks of beef that had piled up as result of the ban on exports and the collapse in the market at home, industry sources said.

Sir David Naish, the president of the National Farmers' Union, said: "It is essential that a proper compensation package is quickly implemented, not only for farmers but also for hauliers, cattle markets, abattoirs, exporters, retailers and other parts of the food chain." Ewen Cameron, president of the Country Landowners' Association and a Somerset dairy farmer, said: "I cannot stress enough the gravity of the situation with a whole range of firms unable to survive for many more days. Yet it seems there is no prospect of the export ban being lifted for at least six weeks."

Brian Montgomery, head of agriculture at the National Westminster Bank, said: "Farmers are probably under the least immediate pressure. But the paralysis of the beef industry is starting to hit abattoirs, exporters, processors and exporters severely."

Farmers can hope for some relief from the EU-backed plan to dispose of old cows and breeding bulls which cannot now go into the food chain. About £480 a head will be paid to farmers for these animals; about the same as they would have fetched if still being used for food.

The difficulty facing the Ministry of Agriculture is that about 15,000 old cattle go for slaughter every week. Britain's nine licensed livestock incinerators cannot handle more than about 3,000 carcasses a week. One idea being looked at is to have the carcasses turned into meat and bone meal by renderers and then used as fuel in power stations. Chicken litter is already used in some stations.

Farmers said they were extremely worried the Government might be forced to destroy large numbers of younger animals in herds with a past history of BSE to get the export ban lifted. This could wipe out half the nation's dairy herd. Sir David said: "We see no evidence that such a move would greatly reduce the incidence of BSE."

The Federation of Freshmeat Wholesalers said that up to half the 6,500 cattle slaughtermen had been laid off.

The Meat and Livestock Commission estimates that 31,500 tonnes of beef, worth £79 million, is currently in stores abroad, in abattoir chiller rooms and in bonded warehouses at ports, or is stuck on ships at sea, because it cannot now be sold.

Jim Watson, head auctioneer at Banbury in Oxfordshire, Europe's biggest cattle market, said: "We sold only about 200 cattle today whereas at this time of year we would normally expect a daily sale of 1,000 or more." Mr Watson said the Ministry of Agriculture had made matters worse by using dental development as the criterion for defining cattle over 30 months old. "The ministry order says that any animal with two fully grown incisor teeth cannot be slaughtered for food," he said. "This means that prime steers and heifers as young as 20 months, with no risk of BSE infection at all, are being turned away. It is crazy."

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Douglas Hogg after the EU meeting yesterday

Cull plan

Continued from page 1

exposed to BSE-infected meatand bone meal". No details have been finalised of how herds would be identified or how many animals likely to be involved but some member states want Britain to cull all herds with even one case of BSE. That would wipe out 54 per cent of dairy herds and 15 per cent of beef herds.

Mr Hogg said abattoirs with cash-flow problems would have inspection charges waived and that banks would face government pressure to underwrite the costs to slaughterhouses of taking on new business.

The refusal of the European Union to lift the worldwide ban on British beef exports worth nearly £600 million a year is a stunning political rebuff and Tory backbenchers turned their fire on European farm ministers.

Sir Teddy Taylor, the Eurosceptic Tory MP, said that Britain had been "humiliated" and called for Britain to deduct the cost of the cattle cull from its EU contributions.

Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, a former Tory minister, told Mr Hogg that there was "a growing loss of confidence in the integrity of the ministers from the EU with whom you are trying to negotiate."

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, leapt to the defence of Mr Hogg, who was criticised for leaving the European talks without securing a promise that the ban would be lifted.

He dismissed as "a total misrepresentation" the suggestion that fellow ministers were dissatisfied with the way Mr Hogg had dealt with the beef crisis.

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Teachers call for sacking of chief inspector

By John O'Leary
education editor

THE most moderate of the big teaching unions issued a near-unanimous demand yesterday for the Government's school inspection system to be scrapped. Only one of 600 delegates to the annual conference of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) opposed a call for the Office for Standards in Education to be disbanded.

A motion claimed that inspection was being used as a "political weapon". Opposition to the inspection system, which has now failed 150 schools, has been growing throughout the teaching profession. The National Union of Teachers will consider withdrawing cooperation at the weekend and the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers is expected to call next week for the resignation of Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector.

A succession of delegates at the ATL's conference in Torquay accused Mr Woodhead of political bias and condemned the privatised inspection process as wasteful and inaccurate. Robin Squire, the Schools Minister, drew hoots of derision when he insisted that Ofsted was independent and politically neutral.

Peter Smith, the ATL's general secretary, said teachers wanted a more constructive inspection regime operated by more professional teams. "I cannot envisage Ofsted gaining the professional credibility and confidence it needs if Mr Woodhead remains as Chief Inspector, unless he is prepared to listen to the criticisms that are being made and take them seriously," he said.

Mr Woodhead's outspoken criticism of teaching standards, and especially his estimate that 15,000 teachers are incompetent, have made him uniquely unpopular in the profession.

But the Chief Inspector said he was surprised that Mr Smith had sought to personalise the debate. "I shall continue to do all I can to ensure that education standards in this country rise in the way they are doing and must," Mr Woodhead said. Rigorous external inspection of the kind provided by Ofsted was vitally important if progress in schools was to be maintained.

Health experts play down risk of human infection

From Peter Capella
in Geneva

THERE is little risk of human contamination from bovine spongiform encephalopathy if current safety procedures are carried out, the World Health Organisation said yesterday. Its verdict is based on an exhaustive study of worldwide scientific evidence.

A two-day meeting in Geneva of experts from seven countries issued a strengthened set of recommendations to prevent BSE-infected tissue, and meat from any animal infected with similar diseases, from reaching the food chain. They said that in addition to the slaughter and safe disposal of animals showing signs of infection, safe rendering procedures for all cattle were essential. There should be a ban on ruminant tissue used in feed for cows, sheep and other ruminants, the experts added.

The WHO added that milk products were safe, even in countries with a high incidence of BSE. Dr Joseph Losos, the director-general of health protection at the Canadian laboratory for disease control, said there was enough evidence from all BSE-type diseases to show that milk would not transmit them. Gelatine was also considered to be safe: "The manufacturing process has been demonstrated to significantly inactivate any residual infective activity that may have been present in source tissues."

The scientists said that there was an urgent need for more research into the ten newer forms of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease uncovered in Britain, although there was still no proven link with exposure to the BSE agent. "The geographic distribution of this new variant, although reported at present only in the United Kingdom, needs to be better defined," Dr Losos said.

CJD remained a rare disease, the experts said. The rate of infection, about one per million, was constant in all countries, including Britain.

☐ The American Government is planning to close a regulatory loophole that has left some dietary supplements and cosmetics at risk of containing ingredients from BSE-infected cattle. The makers, unlike pharmaceutical manufacturers and food producers, are not barred from importing beef from countries known to have infected herds.

The Food and Drug Administration in Washington said new regulations were being considered because the industry's response to repeated demands for voluntary compliance had been unsatisfactory.

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Howard

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before next April, in time for the general election. If the poll is called before then, the proposals will be a main plank of the Conservative manifesto.

The key changes are automatic life sentences for offenders who repeat serious violent or sexual crimes, minimum seven-year jail terms for those convicted for a third time of dealing in Class A drugs and minimum three-year sentences for defendants found guilty of burglary three times.

The Government accepts a huge prison building programme will be needed, at an estimated cost to the taxpayer of £3 billion over 25 years.

Labour, which is anxious not to be wrongfooted on law and order before a general election, gave a cautious welcome to the changes. Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said Labour supported the principle of honesty in sentencing and the idea of indeterminate sentences for rapists and other serious offenders. He was not opposed to minimum sentences.

With Lord Taylor of Gosforth, the Lord Chief Justice, maintaining a silence on the White Paper, the judicial assault was led by Lord Donaldson. He said he was "shaken" by the proposal that the automatic life sentence, to be imposed for a second violent offence, would "actually mean life". It would increase the risk of more murders. "It will be like a murder sentence so that the offender is permanently on licence," he said.

He described as "breathtaking" the White Paper's stipulation that judges would be able to avoid passing an automatic life sentence only in "genuinely exceptional cases".

Mr Howard's proposal to take account of previous convictions stretching back years when deciding a defendant's eligibility for an automatic life sentence was "wholly unreasonable," he said.

"It is not retrospective legislation. But it will lead to injustice. If you take grievous bodily harm with intent — the intent can be quite small. The person may as a juvenile have been involved in a pub brawl and go over the top. They may then be provoked — and find himself in for life."

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Strategy changed after Panther case

By Lin Jenkins

THE successful end to the operation against the kidnappers of George Fraghistas is tribute to the police's largely successful strategy for dealing with a rare but complex crime.

By putting the life of the victim above the arrest of the kidnappers Commander Roy Ramm and his team were following the advice of confidential guidelines on the handling of kidnap cases.

The guide, compiled by the Association of Chief Police Officers, was drawn up after the grim experiences of the Seventies when police faced heavy criticism for the loss of life in two cases.

The need for such a manual underlines the rarity of kidnap cases. Few senior officers ever investigate a kidnapping.

The most recent case was last year when John Warrington demanded £50,000 for the release of Margaret Smith, wife of a St Albans businessman. She was freed when a milkman heard her cries from the tiny room where she was held captive for five days. Warrington was jailed for 15 years.

The advice on negotiation techniques, surveillance and instigating news blackouts is currently being incorporated into a new handbook dealing with rare major crime such as serial killings and multiple rapes as well as kidnapping.

It is being written after a year-long study by a group headed by Detective Chief Superintendent Michael Jenkins of the West Midlands Police.

In kidnapping cases it is considered vital to establish quickly a sympathetic relationship with the victim's relatives and to coach them on how to talk to the kidnapper.

After the death of Leslie Whittle in 1975 at the hands of Donald Neilson, known as the Black Panther, Scotland Yard introduced a policy of taking press into police confidence in exchange for a police blackout of details of a kidnap case until its conclusion.

It was thought that details appearing in the press could have contributed to Miss Whittle's fate. The 17-year-old daughter of a wealthy businessman died three days after being tied by the neck in a drainage shaft. Her body was not found for seven weeks.

Another case which helped to shape procedures was in 1970 when police expertise was so limited that they were forced to turn to the FBI for help when Muriel McKay, the 56-year-old wife of the deputy chairman of the *News of the World*, was kidnapped. A ransom of £1 million was demanded but not collected. Two men were jailed for the kidnap but Mrs McKay's body was never found.

Leslie Whittle: killed by Donald Neilson

Scotland Yard said yesterday that in the Fraghistas case it had been decided not to brief the press. "It is at the discretion of the officer in the case whether to or not. As a rule of thumb we normally wait until there is a press query and in this case there was not," a spokesman said.

Schools to miss league

UP TO 1,000 small primary schools may be omitted from the first league tables of 11-year-olds' test results, Robin Squire, the Schools Minister, told a teachers' union conference yesterday (John O'Leary writes).

The tables, to be published next year, have been condemned by teachers' leaders as misleading. Ministers hope that by removing schools that have fewer than ten pupils sitting next term's tests, they will blunt some of the criticism.

Mr Squire told the Association of Teachers and Lecturers' conference at Torquay that the fluctuations in small schools' results might be too great to provide meaningful comparisons.

WHEN MANKIND MEETS MACHINE, ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN...
THE OLIVER & CLAIRE STRIP

هكذا من الاصل

Shock at the golf club and murmurs in the City as £3bn deal is threatened

High price of row over boss who is no longer with the Woolwich

By Patricia Tehan and Robert Miller

THE £3 billion stock market flotation of the Woolwich Building Society has been put in jeopardy by the sudden departure of Peter Robinson, its chief executive, amid allegations of the abuse of company facilities.

Sir Brian Jenkins, the chairman, and Donald Kirkham, the former chief executive who will step in to fill Mr Robinson's shoes until a replacement is found, met yesterday to discuss how to handle the crisis, preserve the society's reputation and limit the extent of the damage.

The Woolwich said yesterday that it had no intention of calling in the police to investigate allegations concerning irregularities over expenses. A spokesman added that the Woolwich's concerns were over the alleged "irregular use" of expenses and facilities.

The allegations, flatly denied by Mr Robinson, are understood to concern the use of company gardeners, electricians and decorators for work on his home over a longer period of time than the three months initially suggested.

In a statement issued by his solicitor, Mr Robinson said he was "totally shocked" by what had happened. "The first I heard from the board was on Monday afternoon. This was after 33 years of unblemished service with the Woolwich, of which I am very proud, and culminating in my appointment as chief executive only three months ago. I deny that I have in any way misused the society's facilities and the matter is now in the hands of my solicitor."

A statement from the Woowlich said: "Mr Robinson is entitled to his views. But our action was based on an irreparable loss of confidence of our board and management."

City corporate financiers and analysts said the dramatic departure of the man who had been chief executive for only three months, and chief executive designate for eight years, could severely damage the flotation plans. If the flotation goes ahead, about three million qualifying savers and 550,000 qualifying borrowers would receive an estimated average of around £1,000 each in a free share distribution next year.

Predators were said to be circling the society yesterday, although Sir Brian said the Woolwich had received no approaches. Martin Hughes, banking analyst with Credit Lyonnais Laing, said: "I fully expect money to be put on the table by possible buyers. The strategy of any business has been built over many years. If someone has been instrumental in that over many years, you cannot throw someone new in and expect them to be the same." At the very least, he said, it would affect the valuation of the society by the stock market.

Speculation yesterday centred on banks such as HSBC, Midland's parent, Abbey National, the Prudential, the Halifax and Alliance & Leicester. Mr Robinson's home was empty after his wife Janice packed two suitcases and left last night with a family friend and their two golden retrievers.

Also officially "on holiday" was Mr Robinson's multimillionare brother Alan, who sold his estate-agent business to the Halifax for a reported £20 million during the property boom of the late Eighties. At home in Chislehurst, southeast London, Peter Robinson's student nephew Steve, aged 20, said: "Peter is one of the nicest blokes I know, and always great fun. I've heard claims he was arrogant and should go to charm school but that is not the uncle I know.

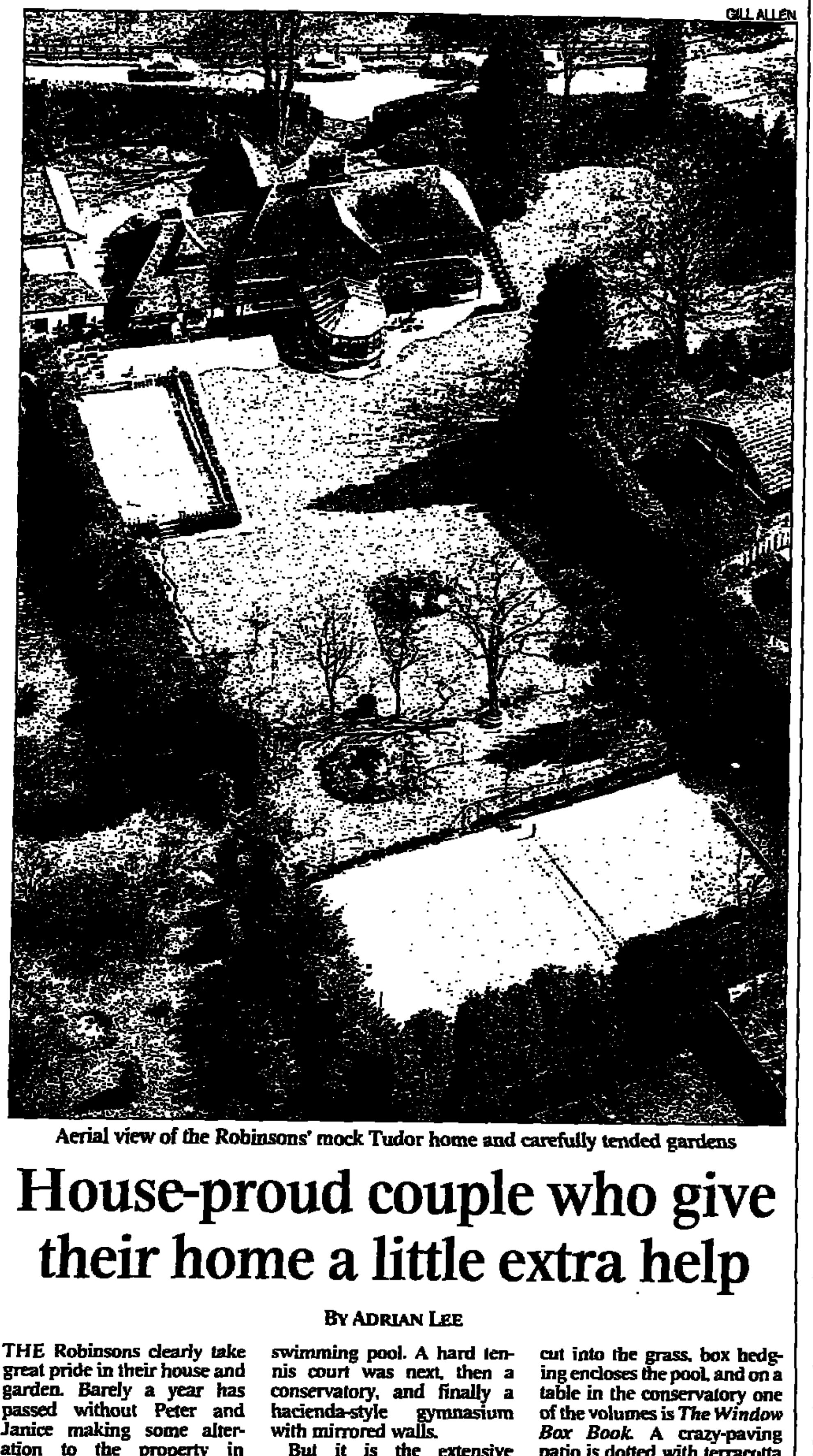
"In our family, money is never mentioned. No one is tight with their cash. The conversation around the dinner table is about football and birds. My favourite thing to do was play a round of golf with him. He plays off 12 handicap, I'm 18, and the matches are pretty competitive."

Mr Robinson's departure met with disbelief at the West Kent Golf Club in Orpington, where he has been a stalwart member for more than 20 years and is regarded as an accomplished after-dinner speaker.

Paul Stevens, the club secretary, said: "Everybody was shocked by the announcement. One feels very sorry for him. He is a very outgoing, extrovert character; a very confident man. He is still very much welcome here."

Peter Robinson, third from left, with his three brothers at a golf club dinner

GILL ALLEN



Aerial view of the Robinsons' mock Tudor home and carefully tended gardens

House-proud couple who give their home a little extra help

By Adrian Lee

THE Robinsons clearly take great pride in their house and garden. Barely a year has passed without Peter and Janice making some alteration to the property in Brasted, Kent, say locals.

Mr Robinson left his post as chief executive of the Woolwich amid allegations that he used company-paid contractors for improvements to his home and garden. The contractors are thought to work at a Woolwich training centre near Chislehurst, southeast London. Yesterday, security guards at the centre ordered reporters off the premises.

Mr Robinson's mock Tudor house would not look out of place on the cover of a glossy country living magazine. The couple set up home there in 1983, quickly adding a 20ft swimming pool. A hard tennis court was next, then a conservatory, and finally a hacienda-style gymnasium with mirrored walls.

But it is the extensive grounds that catch the eye. At the front, banks of heather and dwarf conifers are hidden from a country lane by a neat laurel and conifer hedge. Wooden tubs of primulas and ivy welcome visitors to the main door.

Neighbours said Mr Robinson bought extra land for the all-weather tennis court behind the house and was a regular player, summer and winter, with his two daughters. The court is surrounded by tall conifers at the end of a lawn smooth enough for Mr Robinson to practise his putting. Rockeries have been cut into the grass, box hedging encloses the pool, and on a table in the conservatory one of the volumes is *The Window Box Book*. A crazy-paving patio is dotted with terracotta pots brimming with flowers.

"The lawn is perfect," said Joe Harbert, a neighbour of 13 years who has watched the Robinson home take shape. "Mr Robinson and his wife are out there on the lawnmowers twice a week. They seem to have two or three that you sit on.

"He even feeds the lawn in winter. He has transformed this place. It used to belong to an elderly gentleman and had become a bit overgrown. But one thing I have noticed is that they don't plant any flowers in the garden — it is all shrubs."

Hendrix lover claims victory

By Oliver August

A GIRLFRIEND of Jimi Hendrix claimed victory yesterday over another of the rock star's lovers who was found guilty of contempt at the High Court.

Kathy Etchingham, now a doctor's wife and mother of two sons, said her battle with Monika Danneman, a German, was finally over.

Miss Etchingham, 50, who had a 30-month relationship with the American guitarist, was awarded costs, ending a 25-year dispute over the circumstances of Hendrix's death in 1970.

But Mr Justice French declined to jail Miss Danneman, in whose flat Hendrix died, or make her pay damages. The court was told she was in bad health and recently had to sell her paintings of Hendrix to support herself.

Miss Danneman was found to be in contempt because in her book on the guitarist, published last year, she had breached an earlier undertaking not to call Miss Etchingham an "inveterate liar".

Speaking outside the court, Miss Etchingham said she was delighted with the result. "Monika Danneman was always trying to show that she was engaged to Jimmy while I was going out with him. They were only together the last three days of his life."

Miss Etchingham has always claimed that Hendrix had become immersed in sex and drugs and was extremely unhappy in 1970. But Miss Danneman remembers Hendrix's last few months as happy. She claims they got engaged and that Miss Etchingham was trying to steal Hendrix from her.

Mr Justice French agreed with Miss Etchingham that the allegations made in the book were similar to statements made by Miss Danneman in the 1970s and published in 1991 which she had undertaken not to repeat.

Doctor must pay £825,000 over advice against measles vaccine

By Jeremy Laurance, health correspondent

A DOCTOR who advised the parents of a five-year-old girl against a measles vaccination was ordered to pay £825,000 damages yesterday after the girl suffered brain damage caused by the disease.

Emma Thomson, who is now 14, contracted measles after the advice was given and suffered the rare complication of encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). She has personality and behavioural problems and will never be able to lead a normal life.

The judgment is likely to cause confusion among doctors faced with advising patients about the risk of vaccinations. One medico-legal expert said last night that it reinforced the case for a no-fault system of compensation.

"If the doctor had recommended vaccination and the child had suffered brain damage, the court might still have given her £825,000. We have a system that requires judges to bend the rules to ensure someone with whom they have sympathy receives compensation," he said.

Dr Blake James, a GP, advised Emma's parents, Terence and Ann Thomson, of Farnham, Surrey, that because their daughter had a history of convulsions it would be better not to vaccinate her. But a High Court judge said yesterday that Dr James should have told the Thomsons that Emma could have been vaccinated if special precautions were taken under Department of Health guidelines.

Mr Justice Gage said: "The advice given was causative of the damage sustained by Emma. She will never be able to work or live a normal life. The result of measles encephalitis has been catastrophic."

After taking a year to recover from the illness, Emma was left with speech impediments, autistic behaviour patterns and is unable to read because of severe learning difficulties.

Official Health Department advice in 1987, when Emma was considered for vaccination, was that children with a history of convulsions could be given the vaccine safely if it was taken with another drug, dilute human normal immunoglobulin.

However, since the triple measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine was introduced in 1988, that advice has been withdrawn because it stops the rubella and mumps elements from working.

The Department of Health said last night that it had received 548 reports of adverse reactions after the national vaccination campaign against measles in the autumn of 1994 in which 6.5 million children received the MMR vaccine. Most were minor rashes or fevers but at least 80 had "acute allergic reactions" or delayed reactions leading to fits or other problems. A spokesman said that no writs for damages caused by the vaccine had been received.

Mr Justice Gage said that Dr James had had a duty of care to give full information to the parents about the vaccination and ways of reducing the risk. They could then have consulted a paediatrician. "Given the state of medical knowledge at that time I think a paediatrician would have advised it could have been done."

The court was told that anxiety about whooping cough vaccine in the 1970s had "spilt over" in the public mind to measles vaccinations. This had led many parents to be reluctant to let their children be vaccinated.

Two other doctors who also failed to vaccinate the child were cleared of any blame because the judge said Mrs Thomson's subsequent reluctance over measles vaccinations was caused by her first consultation with Dr James.

Body and Mind, page 18

Bishop prays for peaceful Easter in divided parish

Dixon: Christmas handshake was spurned by Miss Wilson

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion correspondent

AN ANGLICAN clergyman threatened yesterday to take legal action against a parishioner in a feud over accusations that he mishandled church finances.

The Rev Robert Dixon said he has been reduced to tears and had tendered his resignation as priest-in-charge of Holy Trinity, Southwick, in the Durham diocese after clashing with a church warden, Kathleen Wilson, a magistrate. He said the parish refused to accept his resignation.

The Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev Michael Turnbull, said the dispute was a "corrosive influence" on the parish, and appealed to the both parties to use the spirit of Easter to put their differences behind them. Mr Dixon claims his congregation has fallen by half in the past two years because of Miss Wilson's complaints. The problems began when Miss Wilson suggested to the parochial church council three years ago that the vicar was mishandling the parish's financial affairs.

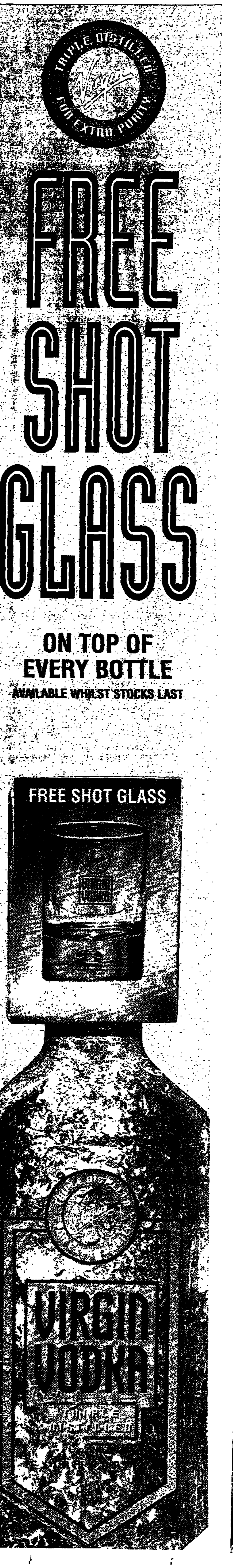
Worshippers still talk of how their priest was left sobbing in the aisle when he was shunned by Miss Wilson after offering her the hand of peace on Christmas Day. Some were so appalled by the pitiful sight that they burst into tears of sympathy.

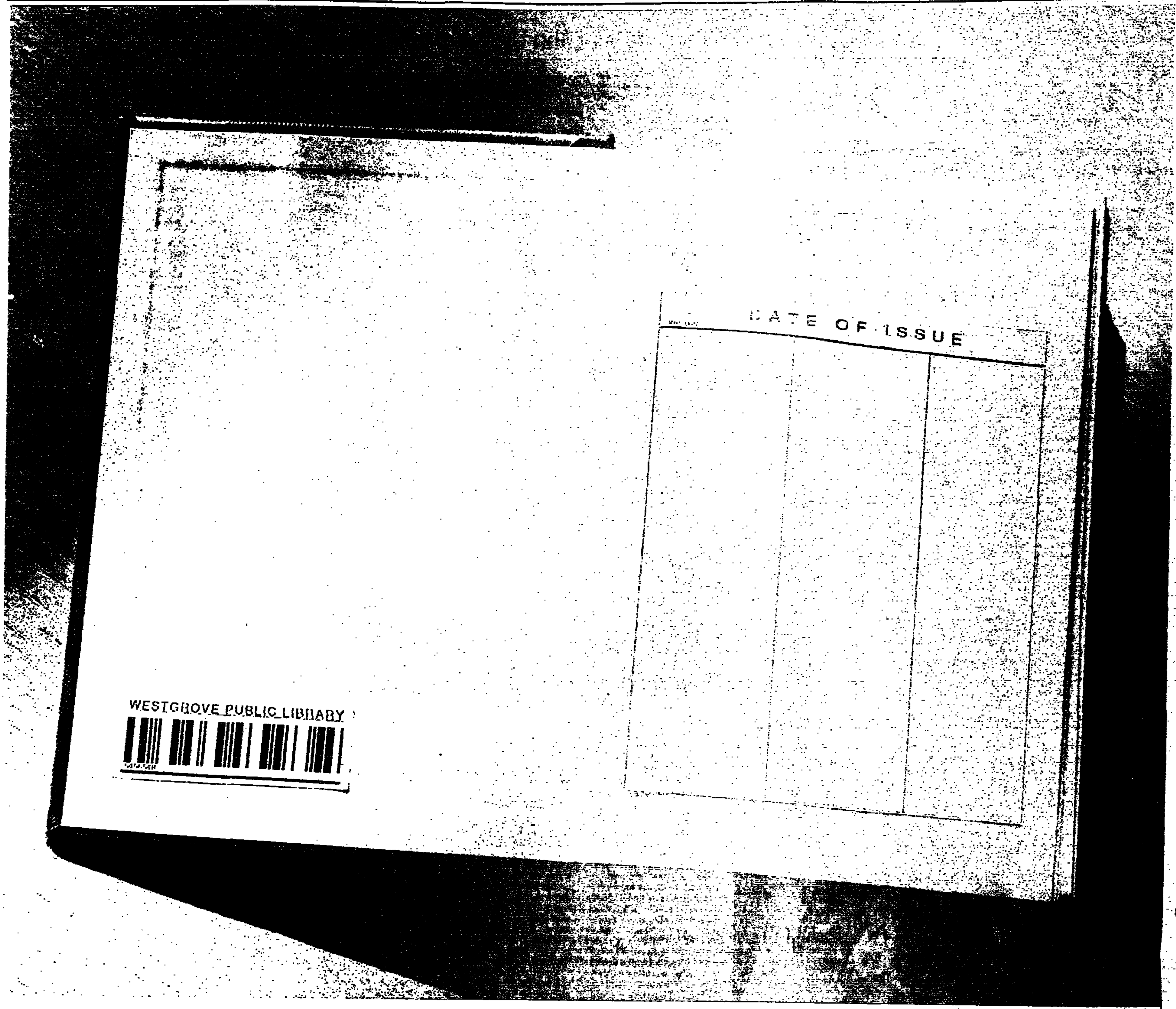
To quash the rumours, Mr Dixon, 45, requested an audit by the Bishop of Durham's office which failed to substantiate the allegations. He has now asked his solicitor to advise him of action he can take against Miss Wilson.

He said: "Things were fine until I was in hospital with food poisoning and Miss Wilson publicly aired some very serious questions over my professional capability and my honesty. For a clergyman that is the worst kind of accusation and people started to treat me differently as a result. There was a feeling that there was no smoke without fire and I wasn't being given the chance to explain. Attendances at church had been going up but after this bombshell they sank by half and have stayed there. It is very depressing. Bishop Turnbull came to a public meeting attended by a hundred parishioners and told them he could find no wrongdoing." He is considering a court injunction to stop further rumours being spread.

"The most miserable time was two Christmases ago," he said. "I was walking around the congregation shaking hands and wishing them a happy Christmas. I said: 'God bless you Kathy, happy Christmas'. She got up and walked to the other side of the church. I just burst into tears. It was a terrible moment and ruined a special day for me. Yet every Sunday she is in church without fail. Maybe it would be better if she went to another church but clearly she doesn't want to."

Miss Wilson, of Silksworth, Tyne and Wear, said: "I attend Holy Trinity every week but I have nothing to say about Mr Dixon."





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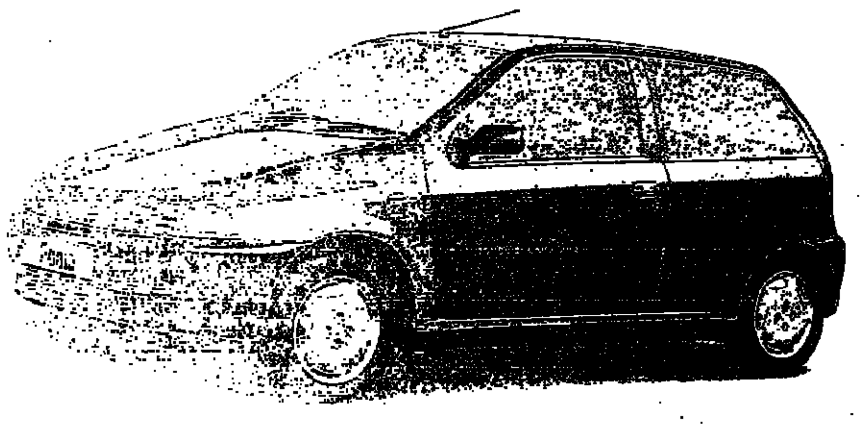

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Retired couple on 13-year voyage are held captive after yacht is boarded by Eritreans

Round-the-world pair arrested in Red Sea spy row

By Stephen Farrell

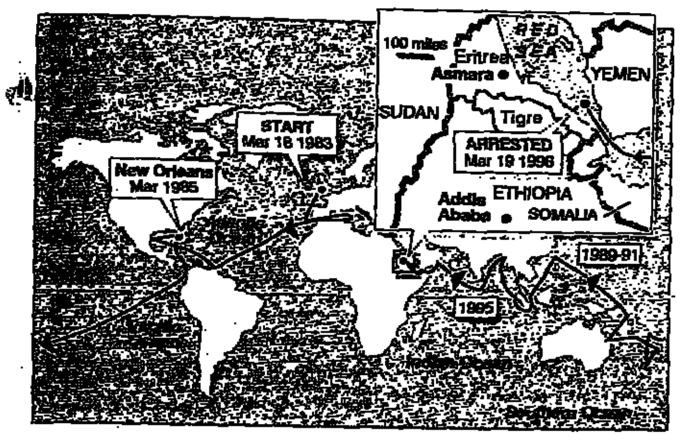
A BRITISH couple appealed for help yesterday after the Eritrean navy interrupted their 13-year circumnavigation of the globe by boarding their yacht and putting them under house arrest.

Peter Billing, 64, and his wife Shirley, 61, have been held prisoner for 16 days. The Eritreans claim their 35ft ketch *Clypeus* strayed into a restricted zone near the Hanish islands in the Red Sea, which are the subject of a territorial dispute with Yemen. A naval patrol vessel boarded the twin-masted boat as it lay at anchor two days out of Aden, and forced the couple, from Wokingham, Berkshire, to a desert military camp. They were interrogated then flown to the capital, Asmara, with a French couple arrested in the same circumstances. They are now being kept in an hotel, but are not allowed to leave their room and cannot make outgoing calls.

The Billings, who are experienced navigators, insist that they consulted other yachtsmen before passing through the area and were given no warnings when they left Aden. Mrs Billing said yesterday that they were woken by armed men who forced them to sail through dangerous shallow waters in the dark, then took their passports, charts and cameras.

She and her husband, an electronics engineer, were forced into a mice-infested hut at gunpoint and left alone for hours. "We were in fear of our lives for the first three days. We just had no idea what was going on and were not allowed to speak to anyone," she said. "They seemed to think we were spies, which is ridiculous. We are grandparents and so are the French couple.

"The problem seems to be that it is difficult to explain to people who have been at war for 30 years that you have enough leisure time to go off and cruise around the world on your own. They just do not understand it and they probably think we are mad."



The couple set off around the world on March 19, 1983, after selling their home. Their voyage has taken them via the Mediterranean to the Caribbean, the Galapagos Islands, the South Pacific, South-East Asia, Oman and Yemen. They spent four years in Taiwan and Singapore where Mr Billing worked for the engineering firm of which he was formerly a director.

On Sunday, after nearly a fortnight in captivity, they were allowed access to the honorary British consul, whom they criticised for being "nice, but not very aggressive". "He thinks it's better to play the thing quietly, but the softly, softly approach has gone on long enough," Mrs Billing said.

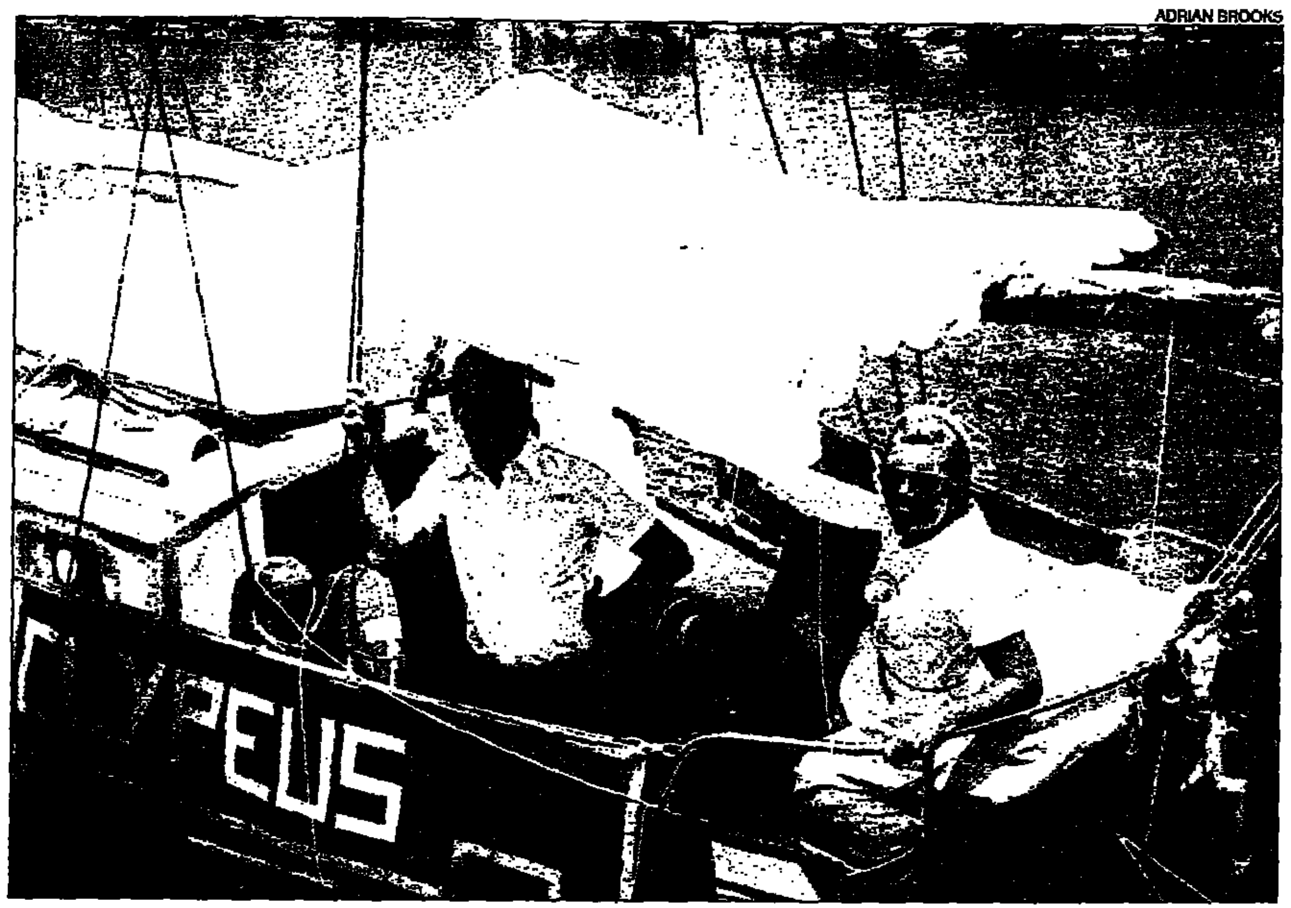
Habtom Gebremichael, Consul-General at the Eritrean Consulate in London, said last night: "It will be sorted out. I gather they are about to be released. This should have taken place on Tuesday, but it has not yet."

The Foreign Office confirmed last night that the Eritreans were initially reluctant to grant access, but allowed the honorary consul to visit after officials in Addis Ababa "underlined our concerns" by letter. "The consul reports they are in good spirits and we understand there is a likelihood they may be released very shortly," a spokesman said last night.

The couple's three children did not hear of their plight until Friday. Their daughter, Andrea Lowther-Harris, 33, said she feared the worst until she managed to talk to them by telephone at the weekend.

"They are bored silly, but I'm sure they will cope all right. Knowing them, Dad will have mended all the mobile phones and Mum will have taught them all synchronised swimming and how to teach English as a foreign language."

ADRIAN BROOKS



Peter and Shirley Billing, who are both in their 60s, were interrogated in a desert camp on suspicion of spying

Operation on boy who died 'was not needed'

By Stephen Farrell

A BOY aged 23 months who was shuttled around four hospitals in one day died after unnecessary surgery, an inquest was told yesterday. A pathologist said that a post-mortem examination revealed no evidence that Robert Benton, who died at a Birmingham hospital last summer, suffered from a congenital chest problem.

Surgeons operated after suspecting that an object was blocking his airway. They then claimed to have discovered evidence of tracheobronchio malacia, an underdevelopment of cartilage that causes the windpipe to collapse.

But Dr David Rushton, a paediatric pathologist, told the Birmingham inquest that Robert, of Rowley Regis, West Midlands, died from a collapse of the lungs after acute bronchial infection. "I am confident this child had a major respiratory tract infection. A mistake was made in entertaining the diagnosis of tracheobronchio malacia. The effects of treatment contributed materially to the death."

Joseph Khalil-Marzouk, the consultant who operated, said the congenital condition would not necessarily show in a post-mortem examination and that Robert would have died without surgery.

The inquest was adjourned until today.

Privately owned NHS hospital given go-ahead

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

THE building of the first privately owned NHS hospital was approved by ministers yesterday as a government health adviser gave a warning that it heralded a battle between bankers and doctors for control of the health service.

Professor Chris Ham, head of healthcare management at Birmingham University and an adviser to Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, said plans by a private consortium to build a 700-bed NHS hospital in Norwich, costing £170 million, would pit shareholders' interests against patients and had "not been thought through" by the Government.

The hospital, to be built south of the city, is the largest privately financed venture approved in the NHS. It was being described by ministers yesterday as an example of the success of the private-funding strategy, which was launched in 1992 but has found few takers.

Octagon Healthcare, a consortium of John Laing Construction and General Healthcare, will build and pay for the hospital, then lease it to the NHS on a 60-year contract, with a review after 30 years. Agreement in principle has been reached. Contracts are due to be signed by June.

John Horam, a junior Health Minister, who also announced a £90 million project to rebuild the Princess Margaret Hospital in Swindon, refused to disclose the terms of either deal, but insisted that they were good value for money when account was taken of the "transfer of risk" from the public to the private sector.

Mr Horam said the Norfolk and Norwich NHS Trust would run the new hospital without interference from Octagon, but Professor Ham said that was unrealistic.

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Mothers win legal fight over beach filth

By A Staff Reporter

TWO mothers won a High Court battle yesterday in their attempt to force a clean-up of the sewage-polluted beach that is their children's "park and playground".

Mr Justice Carnwath ruled that their local council must reconsider its refusal to issue an order against South West Water, requiring it to clean up their local beach.

Rachel Shelley, 21, and Sara Delaney, 29, from Porthtowan in north Cornwall, had accused Carrick District Council of unlawfully deciding last June that it would be "inappropriate" to serve an abatement notice on the water company, which is responsible for sewage disposal.

David Pannick, QC, their counsel, had argued that the authority was failing to exercise its responsibilities under the 1990 Environmental Protection Act for protecting the local community.

The surfing beach was popular with local people and holidaymakers. All year round it was park and playground to Ms Shelley's 18-month-old son Petroc and Ms Delaney's 15-month-old son Kai, the QC said.

The judge said that the council "had failed to deal with the critical issue" of whether a health risk or public nuisance was being caused by condoms and other sewage debris being washed ashore.

Judge refuses to issue guidelines for BMA

Baby who never smiled will be allowed to die

By Dominic Kennedy
Social Affairs Correspondent

Sir Stephen: described condition as living death

A BABY is having her life-support machine switched off to end what a judge called "almost living death". The three-month-old child survived meningitis but was left with severe brain damage. She has never smiled and doctors doubt that she ever could.

The baby, who was referred to only as C, cannot see or hear properly, move independently or communicate. Her only possible pleasure is having her forehead stroked.

Sir Stephen Brown, England's most senior family judge, was told she could be expected to live no more than two years, during which her condition would deteriorate, causing further pain and distress. She is neither brain dead nor in a coma.

But Sir Stephen, President of the High Court Family Division, resisted pressure from doctors to issue guidelines which could have led to the widespread euthanasia of brain-damaged children.

After hearing two hours of evidence and the views of four specialists and examining ultrasound brain scans, he said that each case must be judged on its merits. The judge consented to the withdrawal of treatment from the baby, whom he made a ward of court last month when a health trust asked for permission to let her die.

Her parents agree with doctors that her ventilator should be switched off. After the hearing they returned to a hospital in the North of England to prepare for their child's death.

Sir Stephen said: "It is a very extreme case indeed. The future is frankly quite hopeless, which is a terrible thing to have to say. There is no prospect of amelioration of her condition. There is no prospect of recovery. It is, of course, almost living death. It is quite clear that this little baby does not have what can really be described as an independent existence."

The British Medical Association wanted the judge to provide guidelines for hospitals treating other hospitals so that they would know whether they should be referred to the courts before patients were allowed to die. A leading consultant paediatric neurologists gave evidence that there were many children in a similar position to Baby C.

She was born eight weeks prematurely on January 2. Within a fortnight of her birth she developed a form of meningitis which left her seriously disabled.

Baby C suffers many convulsions every day and is given three drugs to treat them. She seems distressed by noise, such as the vacuum cleaning of her special-care baby ward. Although her eyes work, the parts of her brain which interpret their signals are damaged.

She suffers discomfort from a feeding tube pushed through her nostril to the back of her throat and stomach, and a breathing tube into her windpipe. She is developing hydrocephalus, which causes headaches and requires daily insertion of needles in her brain to drain fluid. If she lived, she would need three operations. Doctors are proposing to inject her with morphine to relieve pain and induce a coma. She will be removed from the ventilator and her parents invited to join her in a private room until she dies, which should be within two hours. All the nurses in the baby unit support the withdrawal of treatment.

Sir Stephen said that the parents had faced the situation bravely. Their solicitor said: "They are relieved that the decision has now been made. They have had to sit through two hours of a court hearing, listening to doctors describe how badly disabled and damaged their little baby is. That has been a harrowing experience for them."

Up to 1,000 cases involving babies born with severe problems arise each year. Doctors were disappointed that Sir Stephen had failed to give them guidelines on when to refer such cases to court. Medical staff are afraid that they could be accused of murder or manslaughter if they let patients die.

Dr Fleur Fisher, head of ethics for the BMA, said doctors needed a framework for such cases "where the burden of treatment is as distressing as the condition itself and where that treatment is to no other avail than to keep the child alive".

ANDRÉ CAMARA

Barry Manilow with the mask he signed on the nose for the Prince's Trust

Prince has a nose for a good envoy

By Joe Joseph

PEPSI rolled out Concorde for its relaunch. Yesterday the Prince of Wales went one better and rolled out Barry Manilow.

The world's favourite drop-nosed singer yesterday joined Gary Lineker, Phil Collins, Pierce Brosnan and Dame Diana Rigg in becoming a celebrity ambassador for the Prince's Trust, which tries to give young, disadvantaged people a leg-up in life.

Manilow, who will become the trust's American-based ambassador — appeared to think that he had perhaps been sort of knighted. "This is a great honour and a great thrill for me," he said, staring at an unfamiliar audience of mostly young men, none of whom was fainting or hurling their underwear at him. "This is the first time I have been involved in anything remotely royal.

"You know, guys, the double whammy is that I really believe in this. Out of all the organisations I have been asked to get involved in, the Prince's Trust really speaks to me."

He said that his own childhood was, materially, as disadvantaged as they come. He grew up in a sixth-floor walk-up in Brooklyn: "If you look up the word slum in a dictionary, you'll see my neighbourhood.

"What we *did* have 50 years ago was a family structure. I look back and I remember having very little, but I remember a very secure background. I think that if you give children a sense that they will be loved, no matter what, they'll get out of a bad neighbourhood and prosper."

Trust ambassadors are expected to attend functions, give performances, visit young people or lend their name to this or that project. Manilow has already agreed to donate proceeds from the penultimate Wembley concert of his present British tour to the trust. He also handed over yesterday a clay mask he had decorated, one of a thousand masks that the Prince of Wales asked artists and celebrities across the world to paint: the masks will be auctioned at Sotheby's in November to raise funds.

"I made a mask and I signed it on the nose," he said. "How appropriate, eh?"

Even the hard-bitten photographers present melted.

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Bootlegger cheated Customs of £7.7m duty

By A Staff Reporter

A MAN who masterminded a cross-Channel bootlegging operation was found guilty yesterday of defrauding Customs and Excise of £7.7 million in VAT and duty.

Ellis Martin, 37, sold 27 lorry-loads of duty-free extra-strong lager directly to shopkeepers when it should have been held in a bonded warehouse for export. He later shipped 230 lorry-loads of beer to Calais, where he had set up a front company, then re-exported it to Britain and sold it to shops, including cash-and-carries. Each time he charged the shopkeepers VAT and the 100 per cent duty payable on extra-strong beers.

Martin, a father of two from Southgate, north London, made so much money that he paid cash for a £270,000 home and two Mercedes convertibles and set up a property company to launder the rest.

Southwark Crown Court convicted him of five charges of cheating Customs out of £7.75 million in duty and VAT between November 1993 and June 1994. James White, 49, of High Halstow, Kent, managing director of a bonded warehouse, was found guilty of two charges of evading duty. Sentence was adjourned until April 29.

Julie Court, 27, Martin's girlfriend, and Sukvinder Singh, 25, his chief salesman, were cleared of two charges of evading duty.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prison chief says he was forced out

The man who was removed from his job as governor of Parkhurst Prison after the breakout of three lifers in January last year is taking his case for constructive dismissal to an industrial tribunal. John Marriott, who was moved to other duties before resigning in November, says that he was never given a chance to defend himself against criticism.

Fallout finding

Western Isles Health Board ruled out the 1986 Chernobyl disaster as a cause of cancer on Benbecula. A local GP had reported that his cancer cases had tripled since 1994.

Bus stop death

A six-year-old girl was killed when a towed car broke free and hit a bus shelter in Sunderland. Natalie Potts's mother and older brother were treated in hospital for cuts and shock.

Wander lonely

The first day of organised daffodil tours of Wordsworth haunts in Cumbria was cancelled because the flowers have yet to bloom. Tours are available until May 29.

CORRECTION

Douglas Bader did not lose both legs in combat in the Second World War (leading article, March 18) but as a result of a flying accident in 1931.

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White Paper proposes sentencing measures that could increase the prison population by a fifth

Repeat of serious crime will carry automatic life term

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

EXTENSIVE changes in sentencing policy were unveiled by the Home Secretary yesterday in the Government's fourth substantial reform of the criminal justice system in eight years.

The White Paper acknowledges that the measures will increase the prison population by about a fifth and add almost £500 million to the annual cost of fighting crime. It says: "The Government is determined to hit serious, dangerous and persistent offenders hard, to provide an effective deterrent and severe punishment for those who nevertheless continue to offend."

The 60-page report outlines a series of reforms in six important areas.

MAIN POINTS

☐ **Serious violent and sex offenders:** automatic life sentences will be imposed on offenders convicted for a second time of attempted murder, threat or conspiracy to murder, manslaughter, wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm, robbery involving use of a firearm, rape, attempted rape and unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 13.

The sentence will be imposed even if the second offence is not the same as the first and any previous conviction for a relevant offence will count as a qualifying conviction, including crimes committed when under the age of 17 and before the new measure becomes law. However, a judge will be able to decide a lesser term if it is thought there were "genuninely exceptional circumstances".

A judge will set the minimum term for "deterrence and retribution", and when that is complete the Parole Board, not a politician, will decide whether a person should be released.

☐ **Mandatory minimum sentences for drug dealers:** courts will have to impose a minimum seven-year sentence on an offender aged 18 or over convicted of trafficking in a Class A substance, who has two or more previous convictions for similar offences. Class A drugs include cocaine, heroin and Ecstasy. The sentence will apply to offences of producing, supplying and possessing a Class A drug and importing or exporting.

Any previous similar conviction will count as a qualifying offence, including those committed when under 17 and any committed before the proposals become law. But the minimum term will be imposed only where the third conviction relates to an offence committed after the White Paper proposals become law.

☐ **Mandatory minimum sentences for burglars:** courts will be required to impose a minimum sentence of three years on an offender aged over 18 convicted of a domestic burglary who has two or more previous similar convictions.

The mandatory sentence will apply to any previous convictions for similar offences committed after the measures become law. The three previous convictions must relate to separate court appearances.

☐ **Abolition of automatic early release and parole:** offenders should serve the full term ordered by the court. For the first 12 months of a sentence or all of a year-long sentence, a prisoner will earn remission of six days a month. A prisoner sentenced to 12 months will earn maximum remission of about 2½ months compared with the current automatic release after six months.

Over 12 months a prisoner will be able to earn three days a month by co-operation and a further three days a month for "positive good behaviour".

The maximum earned early release will be 20 per cent of a sentence.

All offenders serving more than 12 months will remain under supervision after their release for a minimum of three months or 15 per cent of the original prison sentence.

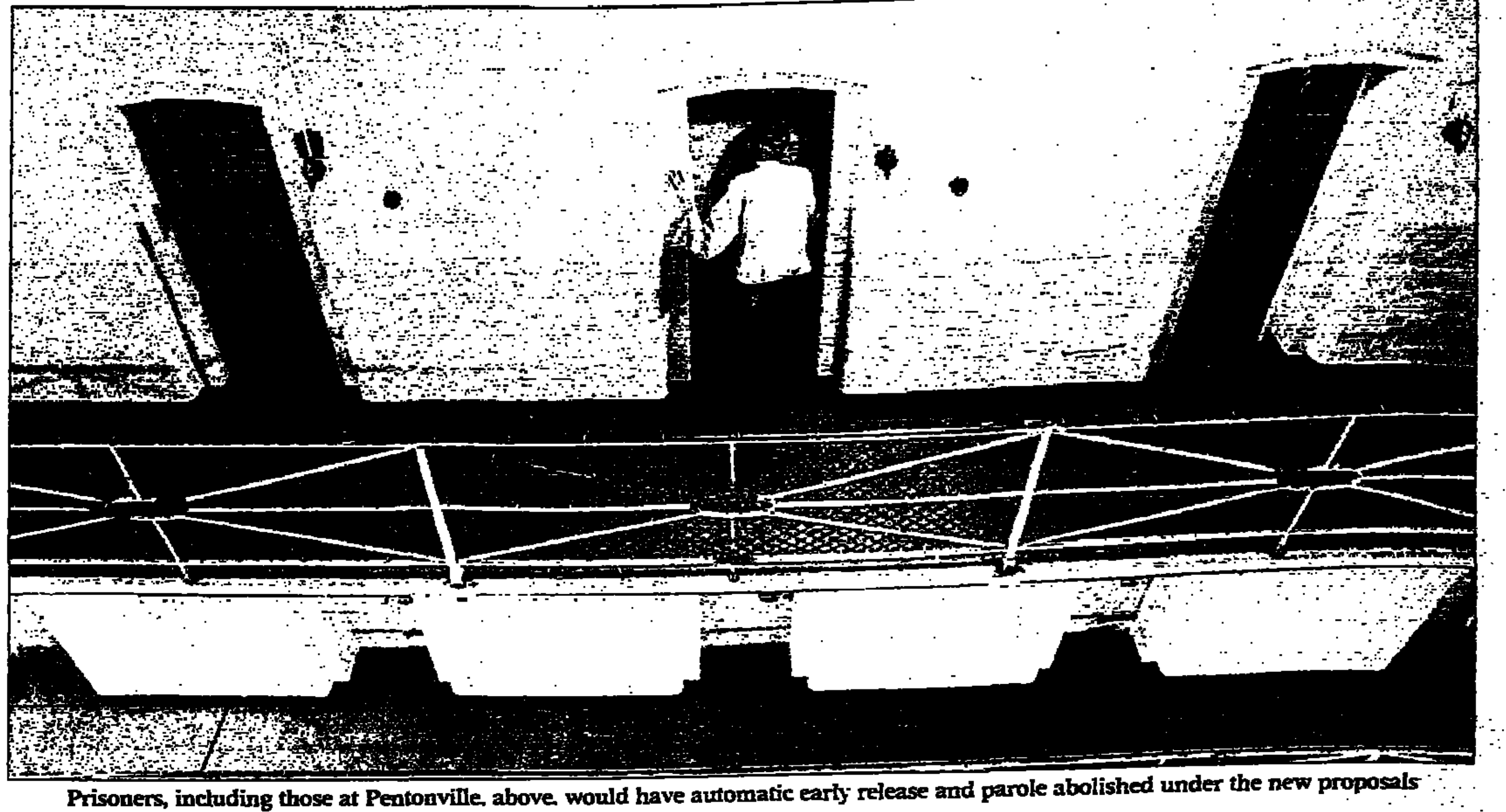
The White Paper says that the Government does not expect an increase in the time offenders spend in jail. The Lord Chief Justice would be expected to issue a direction to judges urging them to take into account the abolition of parole and of automatic early release when handing down their sentences.

☐ **Mentally disordered offenders:** courts would be allowed to pass a prison sentence and order immediate hospital admission.

The Government plans automatic life sentences for repeat serious offences to be in force by October 1997 and the other proposals by October 1999.

☐ *Protecting the Public. The Government's strategy on Crime in England and Wales (HMSO: £9)*

Leading article, page 21


MICHAEL ABRAHAMS

Prisoners, including those at Pentonville, above, would have automatic early release and parole abolished under the new proposals

Plans could mean at least 10,000 more prisoners

By Our Home
Correspondent

A MASSIVE investment in new jails will be needed to meet the 10,000 rise in the prison population in England and Wales expected from the tougher sentencing plans. It is estimated that the cost of building and running the extra prisons will be about £3 billion over 25 years.

Michael Howard has won Treasury support for a minimum of 12 prisons to be built even though he has to find the cash for recommendations in the Learmont report on prison security.

He has to decide whether to act on Learmont's recommendation to build a "supermax" prison to hold 300 of the most violent criminals, and a control jail for disruptive inmates at a total cost of more than £120 million.

It is understood that cost forced the Home Secretary to scrap plans for even tougher minimum terms of five years for persistent burglars and ten years for Class A drug dealers.

Last night penal reform groups condemned Mr Howard's plans and said that Britain was in danger of having huge numbers of people in jail or on probation. Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "These proposals are more likely to reappear in the Conservatives' manifesto than on the statute book."

He questioned whether the country could afford the prison-building programme and the cost of running new jails when the Government wanted to reduce public expenditure.

THE COST

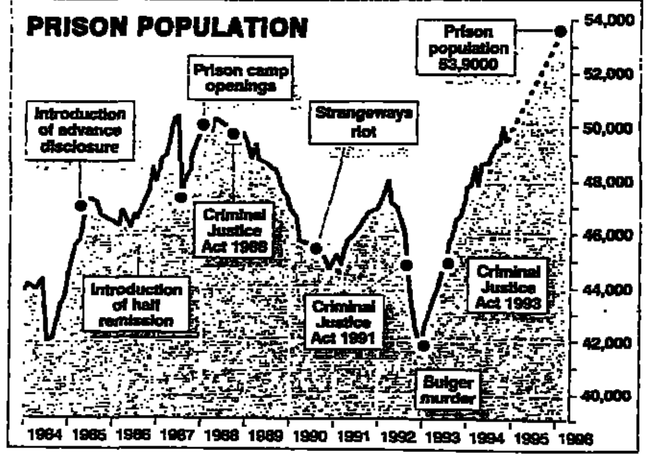
Mr Fletcher said that there was some evidence from the United States that a huge increase in the number of people on probation or in prison had led to a fall in crime. But he said: "At what cost? In some states they are wringing their hands at the cost of putting so many people in prison."

The 12 new jails, each holding 800 inmates, are in addition to two being built at Fazakerley on Merseyside and Bridgend in Mid Glamorgan, plus four planned at Salford in Greater Manchester, Telford in Shropshire, Lowdham Grange near Nottingham and northeast Essex.

All the new jails will be built under the private finance initiative in which private-sector companies design, build, finance and manage the prison. The taxpayer then pays the private sector an annual fee for 25 years.

There are currently 135 state and private jails in England and Wales holding 53,941 inmates compared with 183 in France holding 52,658 inmates. In Spain, Italy and Germany the prison population has risen.

It costs £23,000 a year to keep a prisoner, compared with an annual fee per pupil of £13,300 at Winchester and £12,900 at Eton.



Bill after Bill hints at second thoughts

By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HOWARD'S sentencing plans risk sharing the fate of other recent criminal justice laws, becoming victims of a radical rethink shortly after reaching the statute book.

The White Paper is the latest in a cascade of criminal justice proposals in the past six years which have seen drastic swings in sentencing policy. Lord Taylor of Gosforth, the Lord Chief Justice, has complained that in that time there have been more Criminal Justice Acts than in the previous 60.

The biggest policy swing followed the Criminal Justice Act 1991, which ushered in means-related fines and stopped courts from taking into account more than two of an offender's previous convictions. With tight controls on the use of custody fewer people were jailed.

But in 1993 the Cabinet brought in a Criminal Justice Act allowing courts to take all previous convictions into account. Policy shifted from reserving jail for the worst offences — partly to avoid overcrowding — to a greater use of jail with heavier terms.

U-TURN

Paul Cavadino, chairman of the Penal Affairs Consortium, says that in 1990 a White Paper argued that prison could be "an expensive way of making bad people worse". "Yet in 1993 Michael Howard memorably told the Conservative Party that 'prison works'."

The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 brought in a host of tougher sentencing provisions for young offenders and tighter bail laws.

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Lords likely to defeat Home Secretary in clash over limits of judicial discretion and political power

Judges claim Howard is on wrong side of the law

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE DEBATE

MICHAEL HOWARD'S announcement on jail terms yesterday signalled a new stage in the most public and bitter fight between ministers and judges in recent history. The proposals are almost certain to face a defeat in the House of Lords where senior judges including the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, will line up to oppose them.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, a former Conservative Lord Chancellor, has already told the Home Secretary of his concern that the plans fetter judicial discretion.

He said yesterday: "I understand what Michael Howard is trying to do. None of us wants dangerous criminals wandering around. But sentencing should be left to the courts.

"If a sentence is thought to be too lenient, it can be challenged by an appeal by the Attorney-General to the Court of Appeal, although I appreciate the resources may be insufficient to do this more widely than now. It should not, however, be done by the executive."

Lord Hailsham added: "If you really want to reduce crime, the way to do it is improve the detection and conviction rates. After that you can consider the penalty."

Initial trailing of the plans provoked an unprecedented attack from Lord Taylor, who warned that they would achieve little more than "a bonanza for prison architects". They would not deter criminals and could prompt more murders, he said. Lord Donaldson of Lymington, a former Master of the Rolls, Lord Ackner, a retired law lord, and Lord Justice Rose, a senior Court of Appeal judge, have publicly voiced their concerns.

Behind the row lies a deeper conflict over the roles of judges and ministers. The normal tension between the executive and judiciary has deteriorated into mistrust and a view on both sides that their roles are not understood or respected.

The dispute is exceptional for the depth of feeling involved and the public nature of the hostilities. The judges, according to some in the Government, are the last bastion of the liberal establishment.

They stand accused of undermining its fight on law and order with soft sentences. The new proposals will fetter their discretion and ensure sentences are tougher. But the judges point out that their sentences are in line with the existing statutory framework, itself created by Parliament.

A second source of friction is the power of judges to overrule ministers' decisions in the civil courts. Michael Howard in particular has suffered a series of adverse rulings in judicial reviews. Judges maintain they are merely applying the law and determining whether a minister has acted within the powers given to him by Parliament — a function fundamental to their role of protecting the rights of an individual versus the State.

But judicial review is, as Lord Hailsham said, a "growth industry" and increasingly judges are broadening its scope. Yesterday he agreed it had gone too far: "I do think judicial review has got a bit out of hand. I think the judges, perhaps through rulings of the House of Lords, ought to rein it back."

The judges do not want the dispute to become a constitutional clash. They are at pains to emphasise their belief in Parliament's supremacy and their willingness to apply the law. Likewise, Michael Howard is expected to keep back from telling a judge his judicial duties, as some have urged him to do. And MPs are expected to refrain from questioning judges' motives.

Even so, the dispute will not die quietly. There is one extra ingredient which will fuel debate: the personalities involved.

Mr Howard, a high-profile minister, takes personally the court overrulings and sees them as public humiliation. Some of his supporters have consequently indulged in a "whispering campaign" against the judges. Brian Mawhinney, Tory party chairman, openly invited people to write in complaining about soft sentences.

The campaign was condemned by Lord Donaldson as "without precedent in my lifetime" which raised serious constitutional issues. Mr Howard's time at the Home Office has coincided with the chief judgeship of Lord Taylor, the first media-friendly Lord Chief Justice. The present public dispute would have been inconceivable between predecessors such as, for example, Douglas Hurd and Lord Lane.

Lord Taylor makes speeches, gives interviews and does not mince his words when roused. He is not likely to give way quietly; and the media will be at the ringside.

The proposals would fetter judges' constitutional duty to do justice in mercy on behalf of the Queen. How is a judge to perform this where a second conviction for a violent crime followed gross provocation, yet a life sentence has to be imposed? Judges have been able to direct a jury that provocation provides no defence but is a factor taken into account when sentencing. That will not be possible under the proposals.

— Sir Frederick Lawton, former Court of Appeal judge

We support Mr Howard's aims but his methods are wrong and unnecessary. No one wants violent offenders wandering around if they can be taken out of circulation. But this is soluble under the present system. We have the possibility of life imprisonment for rapists and for wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. If you want longer sentences, the answer is to make it easier for prosecution to appeal against over-lenient sentences.

— Lord Lane, former Lord Chief Justice

The judiciary's independence must be safeguarded and these proposals encroach on that. I support the Lord Chief Justice's point that juries are more likely to acquit in the face of a certain life sentence . . . To reduce crime, detection and conviction rates must be improved — after that you can consider the penalty. If sentences need increasing, that should be done by the Attorney-General at the Appeal Court.

— Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, former Lord Chancellor

For too long we have added to the list of innocent victims by shirking the responsibility of properly safeguarding the public. This White Paper seeks to put that right. The causes of crime are the criminal activities of a minority of citizens. They must be made to take responsibility for their actions. If they can be rehabilitated, all well and good, but if they persist in antisocial activities, security must be the first priority.

—Chief Superintendent Brian Mackenzie of Durham police

Third strike and pizza thief is out for 25 years

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA

JUST over a year ago Jerry Williams was sentenced to 25 years in prison for stealing a slice of pizza from four young boys eating their lunch on the boardwalk at a Los Angeles beach. All four testified that Williams and an unidentified companion had intimidated them before ambling down the pier and laughing at the success of this miniature theft.

Despite the apparent absurdity of the crime, the judge passed a maximum sentence. Williams, he said, was sent to jail for being more than an intimidating 6ft 5in bully.

The warehouse packer from Los Angeles already had convictions for robbery, attempted robbery, drug possession and riding a stolen motorcycle. Under California's "three-strikes-and-you're-out" law the slice of pizza was, quite literally, the final straw.

The case has become a cause célèbre in California, whose high-profile adoption of the legislation in 1994 has been used in 1,500 cases and drawn both praise and condemnation. Under the three-strikes law anyone with two "serious" or "violent" convictions can be jailed for 25 years to life for any third offence, no matter how insignificant.

Only 30 federal cases have been brought to court of which seven have been completed and 18 are pending. The American judicial system is such that fewer violent crimes are covered under federal law. It is the individual states where penalties have been most severe: 23 states have their own version of three-strikes legislation.

The conditions of the law vary enormously depending on the state. In California, 500 felonies can trigger three strikes whereas it is 13 in Wisconsin, which has decreed that these must relate to assault. No one in Wisconsin has been subject to the new policy.

Many legal experts believe the law can only clog the local criminal and civil justice systems, particularly in cities. There are also anomalies. In San Francisco, for example, the district attorney has said he will implement three strikes in only the most extreme cases.

A vociferous opposition has questioned whether the law is catching the habitual offender or merely a group of minor drug users and petty thieves. The public has been sold on a notion of ridding the streets of violent predators — and left with the high cost of jailing low-level offenders.

Walter Dickey, a professor of criminal law and former head of Wisconsin's Department of Corrections, said: "If you are a defence lawyer it's very hard to advise anyone to plead guilty to the third offence and you're not going to plead the second one either. Already the courts are getting clogged."

Proponents of the system claim that many counties in California have kept backlogs to a minimum. They say the offenders trapped have compiled records that belie any contention that the new regime is aimed at offenders who are more nuisance than miscreant.

"You can't just look at the current offence," Kathy Storton, an assistant district attorney in Sacramento, said. "Any discussion of three strikes has to include discussion of the person's record. These people are being punished for being recidivists."

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES

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Addict who admitted 19 burglaries walks free

BY A STAFF REPORTER

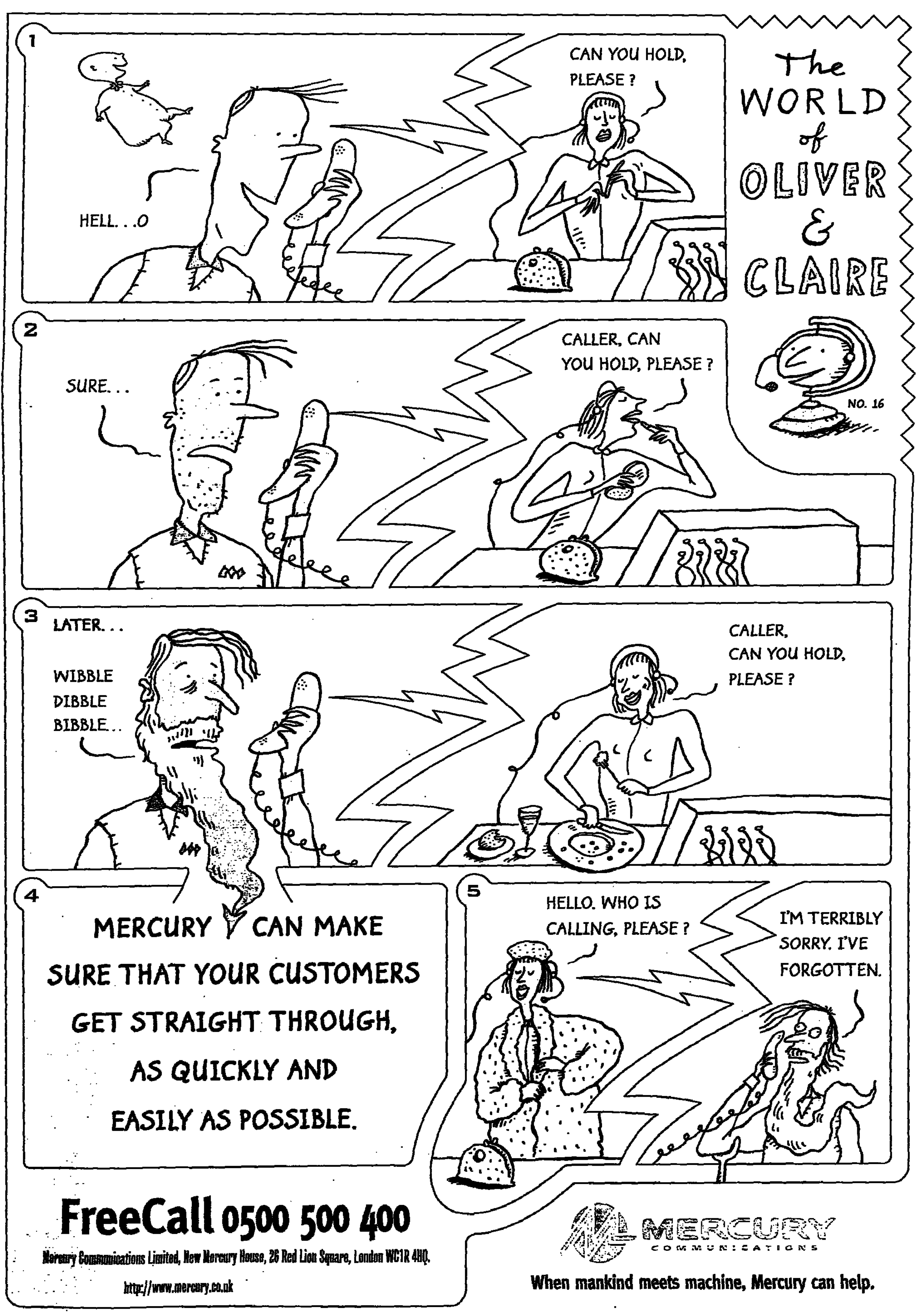
A CRACK and heroin addict escaped jail yesterday after admitting 19 burglaries, two attempted burglaries and an offence of deception and theft.

David Potter, 25, of Islington, north London, had pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to one attempted burglary and one theft, asking that another 21 offences be taken into consideration.

He was sentenced at Snaresbrook Crown Court, east London, to two years' probation on each of the two counts, to run concurrently, with the condition that he attend a drug rehabilitation centre in Bristol.

Judge Timothy King had given Potter a chance before sentencing to prove he intended to give up drugs.

Martin Haukeland, for the prosecution, said that Potter had been seen trying to break into a flat in Holloway, north London, last September. The theft charge related to the shoplifting of two Kodak films, toothpaste and some face cream from a chemist's.



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Mourners could not keep up

Hearse in a hurry was only trying to meet its deadline

By Ian Murray

MOURNERS should no longer expect a hearse to be driven at a respectful speed or even stick to the 30mph limit, the funeral ombudsman said yesterday. It was acceptable to drive at more than 40mph and to go through amber traffic lights, even though the bereaved could not keep up.

"The days when a cortège travelled at a slow, respectful pace have long passed," Geoffrey Woodroffe, the ombudsman, said. "If the hearse exceeded the speed limit by a few miles per hour and occasionally drove through an amber light ... such behaviour would be commonplace in large cities and consistent with the drivers' wish to reach the crematorium on time.

"Although the police might be interested and perhaps a criminal offence was committed, I consider from a contractual point of view the driver did carry out his duties with reasonable care and skill."

He was commenting on one of the 96 cases referred to the Funeral Ombudsman Scheme since it was set up in May 1994. Mislaid ashes, poorly laid-out bodies and family squabbles over memorials also featured in his first report, published yesterday. Only five complaints required a full investigation and Mr Woodroffe upheld all of them. Compensation averaged less than £1,000, "reflecting both the difficulty of placing a financial value on mental distress and my own desire to reserve the maximum of £5,000 for horrific cases".

He did not award compensation every time. In one case the ashes of a person cremated at one cemetery were posted by a funeral director and were delivered too late for a ceremony planned at a different crematorium a week later. The undertaker apologised and promised not to send ashes through the post in future. The complainant was satisfied with that result.

In the case of the speeding hearse, the bereaved family made six separate complaints. Relatives said they were never shown a list of charges and booked a more expensive cremation than they needed.

One of the family who managed to keep up with the hearse tried to delay the ceremony and was told by the funeral director that the mourners would have kept pace if professional drivers had been hired.

One elderly disabled mourner arrived late and was not allowed to park near the chapel. When, using a walking frame, she reached the chapel she was sent to a service for someone else with the same name. Afterwards there was no one available to tell mourners where the flowers from the coffin had been placed.

The ombudsman accepted some but not all of those complaints, awarded £345 and told the family to pay the outstanding bill of £815, which the undertakers had originally offered to waive. The ombudsman did not believe the company was responsible for the distress of the disabled mourner, who seemed to have been confused by a coincidence over surnames.

The report said that 38 per cent of complaints, including many of the more serious ones, concerned companies that had not become members of the scheme.

DEVON & WEST

E.T.C.W.
1916-?
NO
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OFF

Teddy Corbett-Winder in his home-made chipboard coffin. He died last week

Activist departs on the cheap

THE family of a man who devoted his life to a campaign for cheaper funerals was planning his cut-price cremation yesterday.

Teddy Corbett-Winder, 79, slept with a home-made coffin under his bed and left instructions to his family to bury him as cheaply as possible. His ashes will be put in a cardboard box after his cremation to save buying an urn.

Mr Corbett-Winder, who died last week, held a party in 1988 to celebrate the completion of his chipboard coffin. His family has complied with a law that coffins must carry a plaque with the body's full name by affixing a piece of plastic with stencilled writing.

The coffin was driven from his home in Exeter to the mortuary in a builder's van. The vicar is not charging for the service. Flowers will be cut from a garden and the coffin will be driven to the crematorium in an estate car. The total cost is expected to be about £200.

Mr Corbett-Winder began his campaign after working for Age Concern and seeing old people's fears about funeral costs. His daughter, Margaret Rickard, said: "He died in hospital, which threw his plans slightly. He thought he would die in his own bed and the original idea was to be tipped straight into his coffin. He used to keep his dirty washing in it."

Shoppers are duped by list of ingredients

By Robin Young

CONSUMERS are being duped in shops, pubs and restaurants by increasingly sophisticated food adulteration techniques, the Consumers' Association says.

A host of examples of food producers skimping on expensive ingredients, substituting cheaper ones, or using misleading labelling are cited in the association's April issue of *Which?* magazine today.

The magazine reveals that in four government surveys by a working party on food authenticity, of which the association is a member, 95 out of 874 samples of breaded scampi, battered and breaded fish, instant coffee and vegetable oil were illegally adulterated or falsely described. Fifty of 344 instant coffee samples tested contained ingredients which did not originate from coffee beans.

The magazine says: "Enforcement officers have been notified, and in the case of coffee, a code of practice has been introduced ... but there are still plenty of other food problems to worry about."

The magazine cites cheese substitute, made from skimmed milk and vegetable oil. Durham trading standards officers found that, in ten out of 11 pizzas from pizza houses and two out of six sandwiches from garage shops, between 19 and 95 per cent of the "cheese" was substitute.

In Sheffield 13 out of 54 samples of minced beef contained other meats such as pork and lamb. The public analyst who made this discovery also found allegedly halal minced meat containing pork, which led to a £15,000 fine.

A Sheffield public analyst who bought 16 "fresh" turkeys in the run-up to last Christmas found that five had been frozen. They were being sold for twice the price of frozen turkeys and could have been a health hazard, *Which?* says.

West of England trading standards officers found that 114 out of 221 sandwiches were wrongly labelled, mostly to give misleading information about ingredients. A "ham" sandwich contained pork shoulder, while a "beef" sandwich had reformed meat.

In Surrey a survey of fast food restaurants found that only two out of 11 chicken nugget meals were made with whole chicken. The rest, consisting of chopped chicken mixed with ingredients such as hydrogenated vegetable protein, contained 42 to 65 per cent chicken.

Gaps in the laws about food content and labelling often mean customers are misled, *Which?* says. Ham used to be cured meat from the hind leg, but can now contain a mixture of pork meat, fat and water. Scampi, once the whole tail meat from one fish, can now be the reformed tailpieces of several smaller fish, but should be labelled "reformed scampi". A survey in Derbyshire found that 35 out of 50 restaurants and pubs selling scampi were using reformed fish without saying so.

Bacon has only to be labelled with the amount by which added water exceeds 10 per cent of the weight. Thus bacon said to contain "not more than 15 per cent added water" can legally contain up to 25 per cent.

Under British law "meat" can include fat, skin, rind, gristle and sinew, and though the law requires British-made burgers to contain 80 per cent meat, a burger imported from Ireland can contain a minimum of 40 per cent meat.

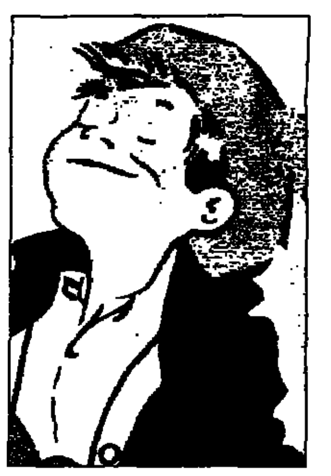
New life for oldest Kids on the block

By Robin Young

TWO children who started life as poor street urchins yearning for a good meal look like making a comeback on the Nineties gravy train. Image-makers have been asked to consider a fresh look for the Bisto Kids.

Originally drawn by the artist Will Owen in 1916, they have been redesigned down the years, usually keeping an old-fashioned look although in 1976 they wore flares. They have not appeared in TV commercials for ten years, but remain on the packaging of Bisto gravy powder.

Now the Bisto Foods company has ordered a review of its image, and told its advertising agency, Abbot Mead Vickers, to come up with new ideas for the Kids and the slogan "Ah Bisto". The company said it regarded them and the aroma trail passing beneath their upturned noses as "very strong ciphers" associated with the brand, and denied any intention of dispensing with their services. Ian Ayling, marketing controller, said yesterday: "Everything is up for grabs including how we use the Bisto Kids."



Bisto Kids: search for the aroma of success

Recent TV adverts have concentrated on the Bisto Best product, with lingering shots of gravy poured over traditional Sunday dinners. An advertising insider warned yesterday: "It might be better to drop the Bisto Kids rather than try to make them up to date. If they appear with back-to-front baseball caps and trainers it will probably offend traditionalists."

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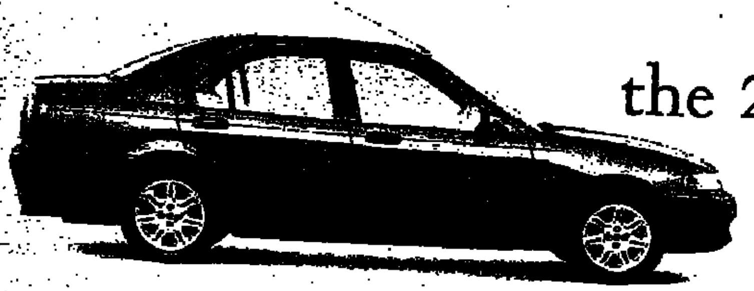

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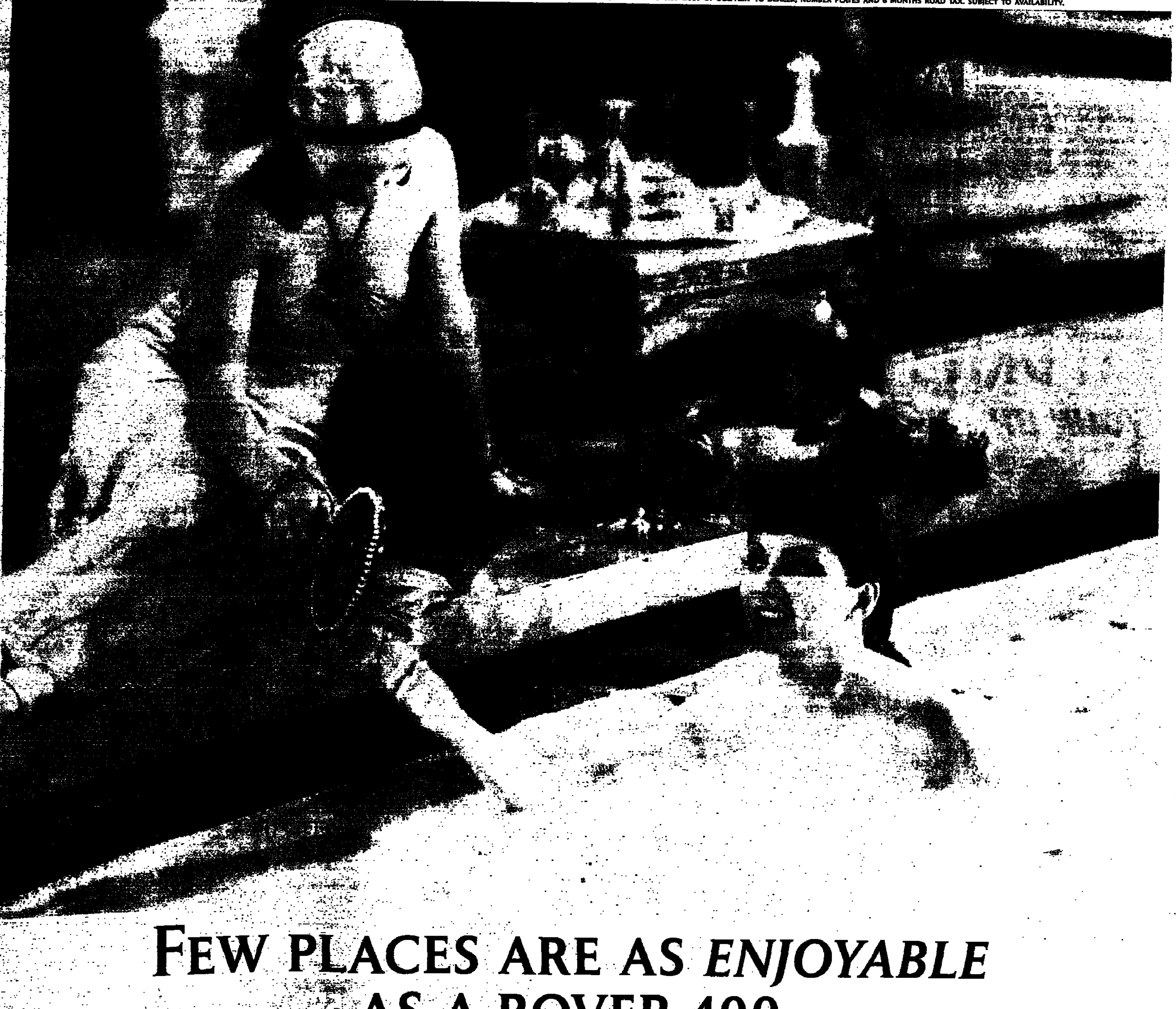

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Clarke gives way to pressure for referendum pledge

By Nicholas Wood and Jill Sherman

KENNETH CLARKE reluctantly bowed to pressure from the Prime Minister and most of the Cabinet yesterday and accepted that a referendum would be held before any decision to join a single European currency.

After weeks of painstaking negotiation with his Chancellor, John Major finally broke the deadlock at a 45-minute meeting of the Cabinet yesterday. He issued a statement saying that his Government had decided that the next Tory election manifesto would promise that British people would have the final say over any attempt to replace the pound with the euro.

But Mr Clarke had the comfort of a number of face-saving measures designed to meet some of his concerns and bridge the gulf between the rival factions in the Tory party. Critically, the Cabinet confirmed that the next election manifesto would leave open the question of whether, in the next Parliament, a Tory government would sign up to economic and monetary union. This decision dashed lingering hopes on the Tory Right that Mr Major might yet be persuaded to fight the election on a hard-line sceptic ticket and rule out the euro until 2002.

Mr Clarke was also reassured by a promise that if the Cabinet backed a single currency — most probably in 1998 — ministers would have to resign if they wanted to campaign for a No vote in a referendum. A further commitment that the referendum pledge would apply only for the lifetime of the next Parliament made it easier for the Chancellor to back down.

Any Cabinet decision to embrace the euro would be followed by legislation making the necessary changes and including provision for a referendum. If Parliament voted for the Bill, a referendum would be the final hurdle.

Any referendum would be decided by a simple majority of those voting and the question would be a simple Yes/No to a question along the lines of: "Should the UK take part in single European currency as from January 1, 1999."

Senior Labour officials said that Tony Blair would not be bounced into making a quick decision on a referendum. Policy remained that the people would be consulted either through a referendum or through a general election.

The Labour leader does not plan further clarification until much nearer the general election. The early manifesto paper on which all party members will be balloted this autumn will not include a decision on a referendum.

Tory MPs backed the Cabinet's decision, although the most implacable sceptics protested at the failure to close off the option of joining a single currency for another five years and demanded a wider referendum covering all aspects of Britain's role in Europe.

One rightwinger pointed out that Mr Clarke's bluff had been called after his resignation threat and he would never be able to use it again. "The Prime Minister is now in a much stronger position on the inter-governmental conference as Ken won't be able to try this on again." Another sceptic said: "Ken was faced down by the Prime Minister."

At a Central Office press conference, Mr Clarke insisted that he was "comfortable" with the decision to back a referendum because, at the next election, the Tories would not seek a mandate for any particular view on a single currency. But he hinted at the fierce behind-the-scenes battle with the Prime Minister by not specifically denying suggestions that he had thought of resigning in protest.

He said: "We have reached a collective decision. I have not changed my well-known views on referenda. But in the circumstances of this case, I have accepted the collective decision that because there would be no mandate at the next election, we would have a referendum, though obviously we would follow the ordinary parliamentary processes first.

"Any reputable minister remains a member of the Government that takes collective decisions he feels comfortable with ... this is a collective decision on which we have all agreed and there is certainly no dissent."

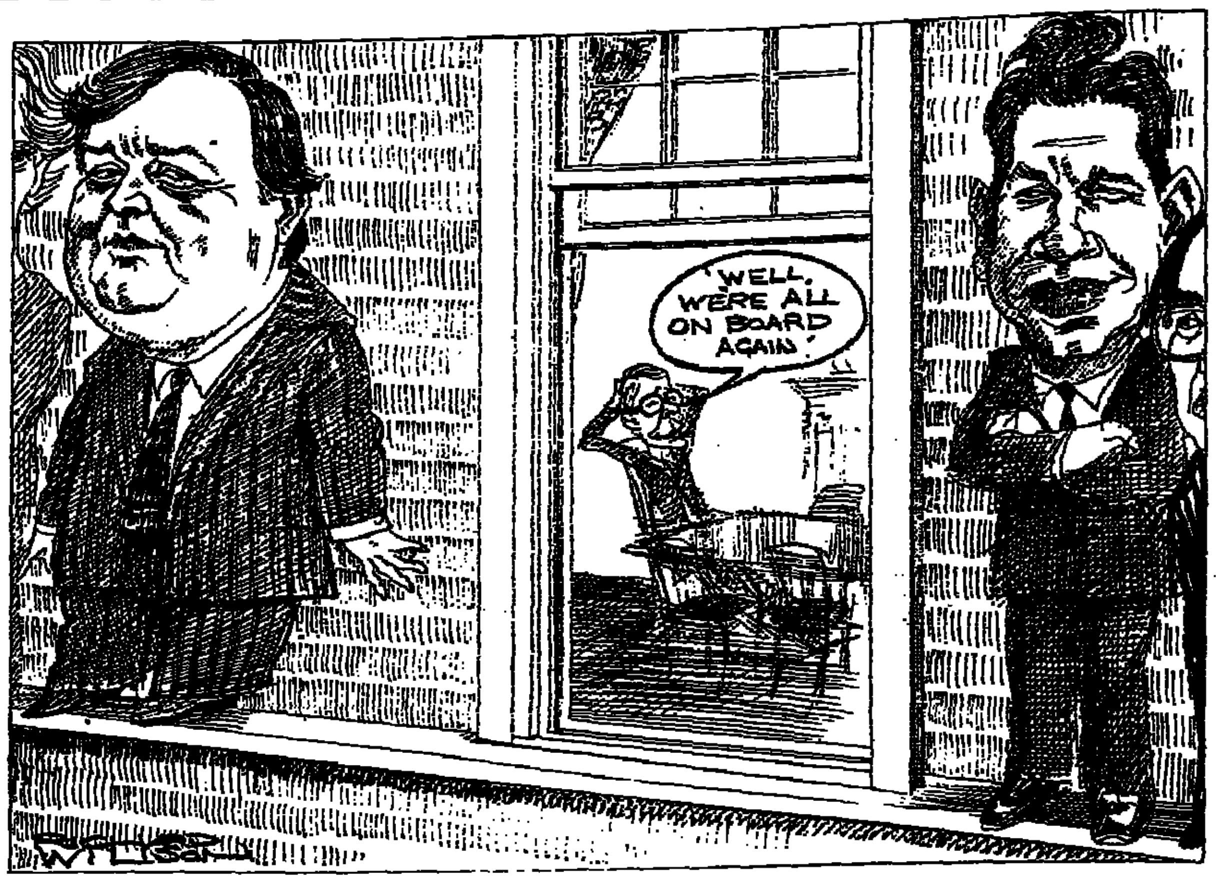
William Rees-Mogg, page 20
Letters, page 21

Pro-Europe Tories have come out the winners

The chances of British participation in a European single currency have been made more, rather than less, likely as a result of yesterday's carefully crafted compromise on a referendum. The terms give the pro-Europeans all that they can realistically have sought, and concede little to the sceptics, and nothing to Sir James Goldsmith and his allies.

John Major has yet again shown his skills as a manager of his Cabinet. In more than five years of turbulence in the Tory party, he has not lost a single Cabinet minister over Europe. This is because he has brought along his ministers at each stage. In this case, Mr Major waited — and did not send out Malcolm Rifkind's paper — until he was sure Mr Clarke was on board. The only Cabinet resignation he has faced on a political issue was that of John Redwood last June over the leadership election, on which he had not been consulted.

Admittedly, Mr Clarke looked uncomfortable at yesterday's news conference. He was unusually evasive about his personal position, saying: "In the case of these circumstances I accepted a collective decision." He made plain how narrow the terms were on which he had supported a referendum. This was solely because at the time of the general election, no one will know for certain whether a single currency will go ahead at all in the next Parliament, let alone whether Britain will join. Hence it is solely because the Government would not have a mandate one way or another on the issue that he has supported a referendum, not because it is an important decision.


WELL WE'RE ALL ON BOARD AGAIN

Moreover, Mr Clarke and the pro-Europeans have safeguarded three key points — first, the existing policy of leaving open whether Britain joins any single currency in the next Parliament or later stands (and this will not alter before the election, as Malcolm Rifkind made clear); second, the whole Cabinet will have to stand behind any eventual decision and there will be no repetition of the Wilson Cabinet's "agreement to differ" and suspension of collective responsibility over the 1975 referendum; and, third, any ballot would come after a decision had been taken by the Government and after MPs had voted on the consequent legislation.

Moreover, the Government wants to avoid the extra hurdle which was introduced into the 1977-78 legislation on Scottish and Welsh devoluation by George Cunningham that 40 per cent of those on the electoral roll should vote in favour, as well as a majority of those voting. This scuppered Scottish devolution, even though a majority of Scots voted in favour. Mr Rifkind insisted that a simple majority of those voting would be taken as confirmation of Parliament's decision.

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

It is still highly unlikely that a re-elected Tory Government would enter a single currency from the start because of the strength of internal opposition and likely Cabinet resignations. But if a German-French core monetary union were successful, there might be strong business and market pressure on the Government to join.

The new Tory position is similar to the Labour one of promising to consult the British people either at a general election or via a referendum. Similar, but not identical, since some Labour backers of a single currency believe that the current policy of supporting British participation if the economic conditions are right could be seen as a mandate if Labour won an election with that in its manifesto. In practice, it would not be sufficient. Labour divisions would force the promise of a referendum, probably on the same terms as the Major Cabinet has agreed. And as Lord Howe of Aberavon said yesterday, "pro-Europeans have little to fear from a referendum on the terms now agreed: as in 1975 any government advocating a yes vote would be well placed to win".

PETER RIDDELL

Minister challenges Brussels spending

By Arthur Leathley, political correspondent

PETER LILLEY mounted a legal challenge yesterday against a decision by the European Commission to launch a spending campaign without the permission of member states.

The Social Security Secretary said that the Commission had exceeded its authority and that Britain would fight the campaign, which is aimed at relieving poverty. Officials said that the challenge amounted to a test case against "high-handedness" by the Commission.

British and German ministers blocked a plan to spend £100 million on schemes including one for the teaching of computer games and Internet activities in Manchester and another for a debt advice service in Wandsworth, south London. Although that plan was dropped, ministers believe that a new spending programme is aimed at introducing the same activities under a different guise.

Mr Lilley will take its case to the European Court of Justice. He said: "The challenge is not aimed at stopping sensibly planned funding in support of disadvantaged people. The EC has not provided a legal justification for these particular expenditure plans made without the approval of the Council of Ministers."

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Pentagon fails to find proof of Gulf War syndrome

From Ian Brodie in Washington

A STUDY of nearly 19,000 Americans who suffered a variety of illnesses after serving in the Gulf conflict found no evidence of a single cause of Gulf War syndrome.

The Pentagon said its medical teams uncovered no previously unknown serious illness unique to the Gulf War and no common underlying cause for the broad range of medical problems was reported.

Stephen Joseph, Assistant Secretary of Defence for health, said that, while the exhaustive two-year study was definitive, it was "not a final answer" and research would continue.

The troops sent to the Gulf after Iraq invaded Kuwait suffered from a "complex mosaic of diseases", some of which could be traced to being in an extremely stressful and dangerous environment. Others suffered from maladies that resembled those in the civilian population and would have become ill even if they had stayed home.

Nearly one-fifth of those studied had psychological problems. Another fifth had ill-defined ailments, a "grab-bag" of symptoms that did not point to a specific cause or diagnosis. A similar number had muscular or skeletal problems, one in ten was found to be healthy, and the remainder had conditions involving the nervous system, skin disease, digestion and breathing.

In only a few cases were the symptoms found so serious that patients were unable to work. The results were consistent with preliminary Pentagon reports released during the early stages of the survey.

The study was initiated to deal with the belief, still persistent among many veterans, that they suffer from a mystery disease that could possibly have come from a parasite in the region or from exposure to chemical or biological weapons.

Dr Joseph said the study found only 32 cases linked to a parasite that was initially suspected as a cause of the syndrome. Few of the other diagnoses would have been expected to result from chemical or biological warfare, he said. He added that the Pentagon would continue to provide services to Gulf War veterans.

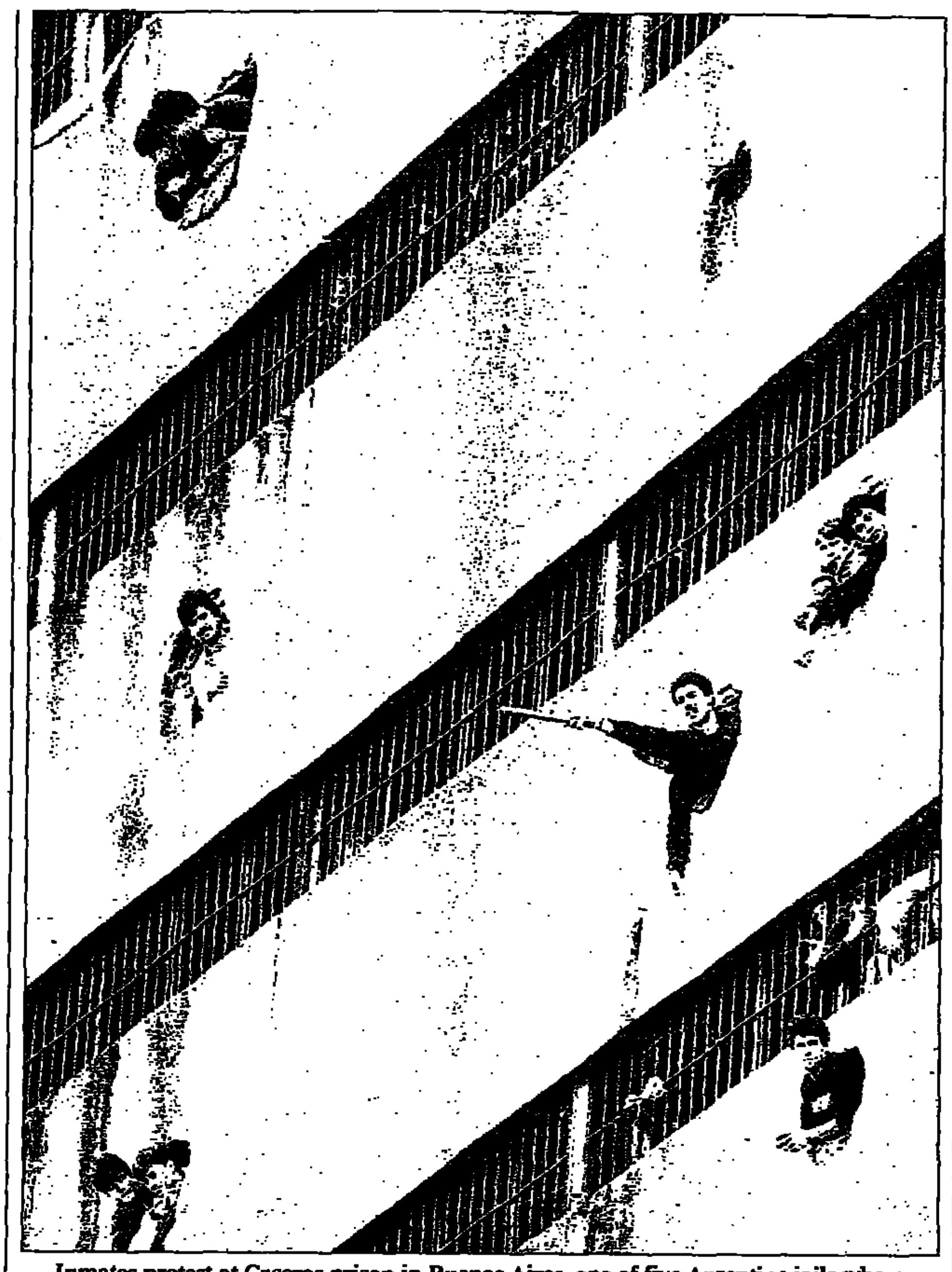
Medical teams did confirm finding many of the complaints that have come to be lumped together as associated with the syndrome among the 18,929 Gulf War veterans who registered to be tested. The most common were joint pains, fatigue, headache, memory loss, sleep loss, rash and depression.

In addition to the Pentagon survey, earlier examinations of 57,500 former members of the America forces by the Department of Veterans' Affairs also found no pattern to indicate that the Gulf War had produced a mystery disease.

Sceptics are not convinced. Richard Haines, a former major who runs an activist group for veterans, has argued that about 100,000 of them were exposed to toxic substances that have left them with conditions of chemical sensitivity, chronic fatigue and dysfunction of their immune systems.

Mr Haines's group maintains that Gulf War syndrome causes delayed and multiple disorders and sets up various allergies which would explain why no single cause or symptoms have emerged.

President Clinton has taken a personal interest in the medical worries of Gulf War veterans. As a result, the Pentagon changed tack from tending to dismiss their complaints to setting up the largest medical evaluations of their kind ever undertaken, at a cost of more than $80 million (£53 million).



Inmates protest at Caseros prison in Buenos Aires, one of five Argentine jails where prisoners are demanding better conditions. There were reports of 17 people killed at the Sierra Chica prison, where a woman judge was among 12 hostages

US lobby presses for free electoral broadcasts on TV

From Tom Rhodes in Washington

A GLITTERING cast of politicians, journalists and entertainers is spearheading efforts to persuade American networks to adopt the British approach and offer free airtime to presidential candidates before November's election.

Following the lead of Rupert Murdoch, the chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, a group of celebrities is asking the three big broadcasters to grant two to five minutes each night for the last month of campaigning.

Five former network presenters, including Walter Cronkite, have joined forces with four senators, five former party chairmen, the actors Alec Baldwin and Christopher Reeve, and others, to sign an open letter to ABC, CBS and NBC. The letter, which the group plans to run as a full-page advertisement in *The New York Times* later this month, highlights the advantages of a political platform free of the negative advertisements that have left an American public exasperated during the early primary season.

"We call on the television networks to offer free prime-time air-time to the candidates for use in straightforward 'talking head' presentations," the letter said. "No tricky images. No unseen narrators. No journalists. No surrogates. Just the candidates making their best case to the biggest audience America assembles every night ... no other relatively small change offers much promise of raising the level of campaign discourse."

Paul Taylor, a former correspondent for *The Washington Post*, has organised the group and raised more than $70,000 (£45,000) to pay for the advertisement. He has also approached three former presidents — Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford and George Bush — to seek their support.

"It's an idea whose time has come," he said. "The way the conversation has been held, with 30-second attack ads and brief sound bites, the public has become more and more dissatisfied."

The idea was put forward by Mr Murdoch in Washington two months ago when he offered free broadcast time on his Fox Television network as one means of removing the "cancer" of big money from American politics. Mr Murdoch also said Fox would ask the candidates to prepare one-minute videos explaining their position on the ten issues of most importance to the American people, to be screened during special breaks on Fox in the month before the poll.

Mr Murdoch offered additional half-hour slots of free television time for the candidates to explain their positions, provided the other networks transmitted the same political programmes simultaneously. All these ideas, he said, were based on the British example.

At the time Mr Murdoch was doubtful whether the other networks would follow Fox's lead and there was no certainty yesterday that this might happen. Mr Taylor said his suggestion to network executives, who would be forced to lose millions of dollars in advertising, had met only a lukewarm response.

González: risked arrest to find work

Call to bar high-speed police chase

From Giles Whittell in Los Angeles

AMERICAN civil rights groups are demanding new laws to curb police who turn violent after high-speed chases as the FBI launches an investigation into the beating of two illegal immigrants, Leticia González and Enrique Funes.

Their beating, filmed by a television crew, prompted international outrage.

The American Civil Liberties Union, calling the case an example of "high-speed pursuit syndrome" — when police become blinded with rage — want laws to control it.

Only the most hard-hearted could not feel for Señora Gonzalez yesterday. Desperate for work, the Mexican left two children and risked arrest with her illegal entry, only to end up in hospital.

Red-light district takes to the road

From Quentin Letts in New York

NEW YORK prostitutes have mobilised. In a redefinition of the world's oldest profession, "street walkers" have started to drive around Manhattan looking for business.

Nowadays prostitutes are likely to try to catch the attention of potential clients by winding down the passenger window and cooing to fellow motorists at traffic lights. The practice has led to congestion at crossroads in midtown Manhattan.

Captain Thomas Lawrence, commander of New York City's 10th Precinct, said the women have taken to the road to avoid the police officers who patrol urban areas on foot. The police may have to revise their tactics. "They're mobile and you have to be mobile as well," said Captain Lawrence.

There are reports of carloads of prostitutes touring the streets in newish saloon cars, often rented from out-of-state hire firms. Any male motorist who innocently draws up at a red traffic light and casts a sideways look at the neighbouring vehicle may find his glance reciprocated with blown kisses, mascara-laden winks and indications of cleavage. Male pedestrians have also been prey to such displays.

A New York *Daily News* reporter described a woman in a 1996 Dodge sedan who hissed at him through her window at some traffic lights near the Plaza Hotel. When he looked at her she asked if he was "looking for fun".

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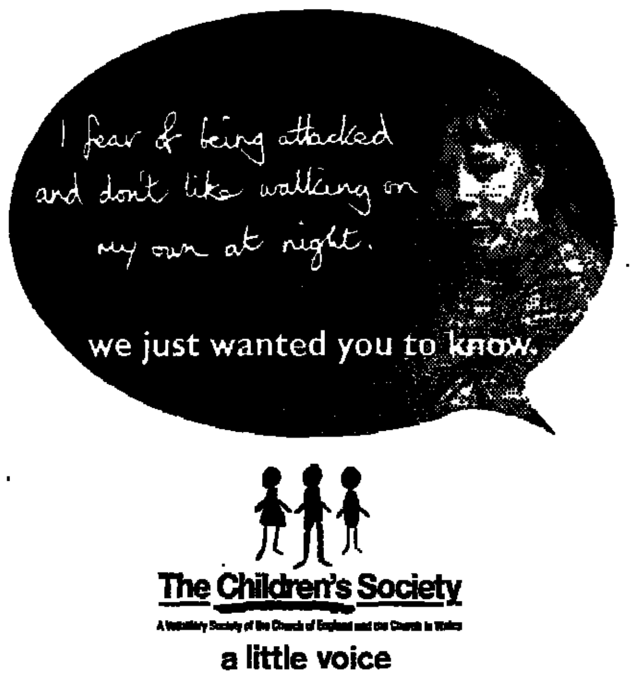

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Former SS captain defends massacre of Rome captives

FROM REUTER IN ROME

A FORMER SS captain accused of organising a Nazi massacre of Italians during the Second World War said yesterday that the atrocity was ordered personally by Hitler and was a "legitimate reprisal" for a partisan attack.

"I am innocent," Erich Friebke was quoted as saying by a lawyer who attended the closed-door committal hearing. Attorneys said the former German officer had blamed Italian partisans for provoking the SS massacre of 335 men and boys, 75 of them Jews, in the Ardeatine caves outside Rome in March 1944.

"The real culprits are the killers of Via Rasella," he was quoted as saying — a reference to the killing of 33 German soldiers by Italian partisans in a Rome street on March 23, 1944, during the Nazi occupation of the Italian capital. "If they hadn't been killed, then there never would have been the retaliation at the Ardeatine caves." Herr Priebke, 82, said.

The SS retaliated the next day by rounding up the massacre victims from Regina Coeli prison, the SS headquarters in Rome, and their own homes and driving them to the caves. There they were shot in the back of the head in groups of five kneeling on corpses. The SS had ordered ten Italians to be killed for every German victim, although in the end an extra five were shot.

"I'm sorry for what happened. I've lived all this time with it weighing on my heart, but it was a legitimate reprisal." Herr Priebke was quoted as saying. "The order came directly from the Führer and if it wasn't obeyed immediately, we would have been killed," he said. "It's a terrible thing to think about it now, but at the time there was nothing else to do."

Priebke: shot two of the victims himself

Herr Priebke spoke for the first time in court since he was extradited last November to Italy from Argentina, where he had lived openly since 1948.

The military court judge, Giuseppe Mazzi, is examining the evidence before deciding whether to commit Herr Priebke to trial for war crimes.

Attorneys who spoke to reporters during a break in the hearing said Herr Priebke repeated his defence that he was following orders when he drew up a list of Italians to be killed, and personally killed several victims. "I shot two people like every official was obliged to do," he was quoted as saying.

At the end of his questioning, lawyers said Herr Priebke was granted a request to read a statement. In this, he said he had never held anti-Semitic views and added that his wife's best friend was Jewish. The statement prompted angry shouts from victims' relatives at the hearing.

A group of Croats released by the Serbs cross the River Sava southeast of Zagreb to freedom. Croatia had earlier released 15 Serbs

UN sets Bosnian total of missing at 27,000

BY PETER CAPELLA
IN GENEVA AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ABOUT 27,000 people are unaccounted for and probably dead after the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and most of them are cases of "ethnic cleansing", the United Nations envoy responsible for tracing missing people in former Yugoslavia said yesterday.

After presenting his report to the UN's Human Rights Commission, Manfred Nowak said that most of the killings were carried out in the days and weeks following the seizure of towns and villages, when direct military confrontation had ceased. "The clear majority are cases of ethnic cleansing, which has nothing to do with armed conflict," he said.

In his report, Mr Nowak said that about 3,000 more people were missing in Croatia. He added that most of the estimated 30,000 who have to be traced are likely to be found in about 350 mass graves, holding anything from three to 1,000 bodies. Most of the graves in Bosnia are near Prijedor, Sanski Most and Srebrenica. The envoy criticised Belgrade for not allowing him into Yugoslavia, which has always denied that its national army was involved in the Bosnian fighting.

Mr Nowak, who is working with the International War Crimes Tribunal and the International Committee of the Red Cross, said he hopes that excavations would begin before spring is over. But the envoy gave a warning that that there is not enough money to start the operation, now entering a critical phase. He launched an appeal for a voluntary fund of $1 million (£666,000) and for countries to supply specialists to start excavating mass graves and carry out forensic research.

Mr Nowak indicated that some European and Islamic countries were prepared to finance the operation, if it received explicit backing from the 53-member Human Rights Commission currently meeting in Geneva.

The International Committee of the Red Cross yesterday criticised the failure of all sides to release all prisoners of war. The criticism came after the Serbs freed only four people on Monday, followed by seven more yesterday. Croatia released 15 Serbs.

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Murder ruling in Solar cult inquiry

BY RICHARD CLEROUX
IN OTTAWA AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Swiss judge leading the inquiry into the deaths of 54 members of the Order of the Solar Temple cult in 1994 said yesterday that all but 15 had been effectively murdered.

André Piller said there was no evidence that any killer or witness had survived the fires in two Swiss villages and the Morin Heights ski resort in Quebec.

The Quebec Government ordered an investigation yesterday into allegations that the Solar Temple cult had infiltrated the middle management of Hydro-Quebec, the publicly owned electric utility. Michel Cote, a former employee, alleges in a wrongful dismissal suit filed in a Montreal court this week that he was sacked after refusing to join the cult.

Cult members are taught that the world will end in fire and that to pass into the afterworld they must die violently by burning.

Putting the 'gay' back in Paree

FROM ADAM SAGE
IN PARIS

A FILM about drag queens is proving to be one of the hits of the year in France, illustrating the country's sudden fascination with all things camp.

Pédale Douce (Gentle Queer), brought out at the end of last month, met with hostility from the critics. Despite a fine performance by Fanny Ardant as the friend and "alibi" of a businessman who does not want to disclose his homosexuality, the movie was panned. Yet last week it drew 112,000 spectators, a big score for a French film.

Since the success last year of *Gazon Maudit*, about a lesbian, homosexuality has been high on the French agenda and so has cross-dressing. Many television documentaries have devoted lengthy programmes to drag queens.

The duo, Les Sister Queens, have been appearing regularly on variety shows. *Pédale Douce* is merely drawing a public whose appetite has already been sharpened.

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Major's visit to signal backing for free Kiev

By Michael Binyon, diplomatic editor

JOHN MAJOR will spend a day in Ukraine before arriving in Moscow for the nuclear safety summit in a fortnight's time. His talks in Kiev are intended as a signal to those in Moscow calling for a reconstitution of the Soviet Union that Britain is committed to a free and prosperous Ukraine.

The Prime Minister's visit comes after the Duma vote for the restoration of the Soviet Union caused widespread unease in the former Soviet republics. The subsequent decision by Russia and Belorussia to set up a new, closer Commonwealth of Sovereign Republics has also increased the political pressure on Kiev. Britain regards the independence of Ukraine as a vital test of Russian intentions; any attempt to reincorporate Ukraine would be seen as an attempt to rebuild the Russian empire.

Political and material support will also be given to Kiev in an unusual joint visit planned by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and his German opposite number, Klaus Kinkel. They may hold joint talks with President Kuchma as early as next month. The only other such Anglo-German initiative was a joint visit to Turkey by Herr Kinkel and Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, in 1994.

Mr Rifkind visited Ukraine soon after becoming Foreign Secretary, giving his first overseas speech in Kiev. Mr Major will also have talks with President Kuchma, and will underline the Government's determination to boost British exports to, and investment in, Ukraine — now lagging far behind those of Germany, France and Italy. He will also signal British support for the embattled Government's belated economic reforms, and urge Kiev to pass laws protecting foreign investment.

Mr Major's visit, immediately after a one-day trip to the Czech Republic, will be his first to Kiev. He will be the only participant in the Moscow summit to go there on the way to Russia, underlining Britain's determination to bolster pro-Western policies in Ukraine and repair the strained relations Kiev had with most Western countries during the first three years of independence. His visit assumes added significance after President Yeltsin again cancelled a planned visit to Kiev — the sixth time the Russian leader has failed to keep his promise to finalise agreement on dividing the Black Sea Fleet and Moscow's overall relations with the former Soviet republic.

A key issue for the West and Ukraine is Nato expansion. Nato proposals to open talks with Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic initially worried Ukraine, which insists it is non-aligned. The vehement Russian opposition has softened this opposition to Nato expansion, but Kiev does not want to be a buffer in a confrontation between Nato troops on its Polish border and strengthened Russian forces in the north. Mr Major will also discuss nuclear safety and Western aid to shut down all the Chernobyl reactors.

Mr Kuchma will join the leaders of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations on the second day of their Moscow summit on April 20.

Leading article, page 21

Youths in Gomel, Belorussia, among thousands who protested at the merger between their republic and Russia

THE NEW UNIONS

	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Fully integrated union Founded: 1922, dissolved: 1991	**Commonwealth of Independent States** Loose political, economic and military alliance Founded: December 8 1991	**New Union** Common market enshrining free movement of goods, services, labour and capital Founded: March 29 1996	**Commonwealth of Sovereign Republics** Union aiming to integrate foreign and defence policies and form single currency Founded: April 2 1996
Armenia	●	●		
Azerbaijan	●	●		
Belorussia	●	●	●	●
Estonia	●			
Georgia	●	●		
Kazakhstan	●	●	●	
Kirgizia	●	●	●	
Latvia	●			
Lithuania	●			
Moldavia	●	●		
Russia	●	●	●	●
Tajikistan	●	●		
Turkmenistan	●	●		
Ukraine	●	●		
Uzbekistan	●	●		

Chechen village bombed by Russians

From Thomas de Waal in Moscow

RUSSIAN aircraft bombed a village in western Chechenia yesterday, giving the lie to a statement by the Russian Defence Minister that all fighting had stopped.

Villagers fleeing Shalazhi were reported to have said that they had escaped in the night after Russian bombers had destroyed at least 20 houses, wounding dozens of people. One resident said that "half of the village has been destroyed". Another said she just managed to run away barefoot before her house was destroyed.

Shalazhi is one of many Chechen villages that have signed "peace agreements" in the past few weeks in the hope of being spared the fighting. The Russian commander in Chechenia apologised last week to another of the signatory villages, Katyr-Yurt, after it was bombed.

In the same region, the scene of some of the worst fighting of the Chechenia war, it was reported that artillery could be heard through the night near the rebel village of Bamut, a former missile base.

In Moscow, General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, said "no military operations have been conducted since yesterday. Everything has been suspended". He said the ceasefire announced on Sunday by President Yeltsin, which forms the central plank of his new peace plan, was still holding. Yesterday's fighting suggests that the peace plan may be a smokescreen for fighting to continue. Ending the war, or at least being seen to end it, is one of Mr Yeltsin's highest priorities for his June re-election campaign.

Hayden: Chinese are 'racial supremacists'

Countries in Asia accused of racism

From Roger Maynard in Sydney

BILL HAYDEN, Australia's recently retired Governor-General, was last night at the centre of a diplomatic row after he accused many Asian countries of being racist.

Mr Hayden, publicising his autobiography in a radio interview, said: "If you want to see racism, racial intolerance, look at some of our neighbours, neighbouring Asian countries." He went on to describe the Chinese as racial supremacists and the Japanese as racial exclusivists.

Mr Hayden said that Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Malaysian Prime Minister, administered a policy "which means racial discrimination against the Chinese in that country in education and employment opportunity. The Indians in that country are largely dirt poor."

The remarks will embarrass John Howard, the newly elected Prime Minister, whose Government has pledged to improve relations with Asia. Alexander Downer, the Foreign Minister, who is to tour Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand next month, said last night that Mr Hayden's comments were not the view of the Government.

☐ China "weak": China has such poor military equipment that it cannot be sure of successfully attacking any of its neighbours, including Taiwan, according to an Australian Government report released yesterday. *(AFP)*

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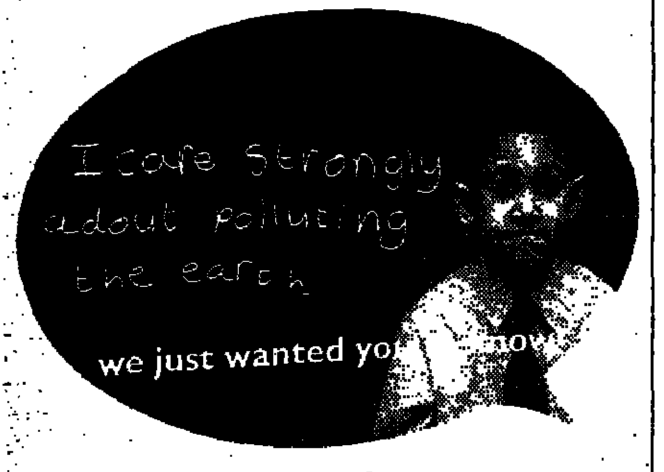

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South Africa sends neo-Nazi bombers to jail for 26 years

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

Eugene Terre'Blanche, the Afrikaner Resistance Movement leader, leaves the court flanked by bodyguards

FIVE leaders of South Africa's neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) were each sentenced to an effective 26 years' imprisonment yesterday for their roles in a bombing campaign by the movement shortly before the first democratic elections in April 1994.

Twenty people were killed and nearly 200 injured in and around Johannesburg during the offensive, which was aimed at disrupting the poll. One victim was Simon Walker, a staff photographer of *The Times*, who was seriously hurt when a device exploded in central Johannesburg and blew up his rented car.

The public benches of the Rand Supreme Court in central Johannesburg were packed yesterday by AWB members in military-style camouflage fatigues as Mr Justice Monus Fleming delivered sentences on ten men in the dock. Their revolver holsters were empty because they had to hand over their firearms on entering the court building.

Four other AWB members convicted with the other ten last Friday were not in court. They escaped from the high-security Diepkloof prison outside Johannesburg last month and the judge said he would sentence them when they were recaptured.

Abraham Fourie, Johannes Venter, Jaco Nel, Petrus Steyn and Gerhardus Fourie, described by the judge as ringleaders of the bomb campaign, were each jailed for 20 years for murder, ten years for attempted murder and six years for damage to property, the sentences to run concurrently. Under South African law long-term prisoners may, at the discretion of the prisons commissioner, be released on parole after serving a third of their sentences.

Various forms of amnesty have resulted in the release of thousands of people detained for so-called political crimes during the past six years. But a leading Johannesburg lawyer said last night that he did not believe the AWB men would be shown mercy.

Five other men involved in the bombing campaign before the multi-racial elections were sentenced to between five years and 42 months' imprisonment, partly suspended, for stealing cars used in the attacks and illegal possession of arms and explosives.

Eugene Terre'Blanche, the bearded AWB leader, was in the court, flanked by bodyguards of the movement's Ystergarde (Iron Guard) who parade in all-black fatigues rather than the camouflage of its rank and file.

He was once a bodyguard himself in a police unit protecting the former President and Prime Minister, John Vorster, but yesterday he appeared subdued as he was hustled to a car outside while about 200 black demonstrators booed. He said he would comment on the sentences at an AWB rally later in Pretoria.

It was left to Fred Rundle, the AWB's spokesman, to deliver the predictable outburst. He said the sentences were too harsh and would increase the anger of white rightwingers. "We are heading for civil war," he proclaimed. "We are sitting on a powder keg which is begging to be lit."

Among those listening to the outburst on the court steps was John Keane, whose daughter, Susan, an African National Congress election candidate, was killed by the bomb that seriously injured Mr Walker. As he watched Mr Terre'Blanche being driven off, he said: "The AWB's senior leaders should also have stood trial. They must have known what was going on."

Kenya opposition self-destructs in violent clashes

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

KENYA'S leading opposition parties are on the verge of collapse after days of violent clashes and leadership squabbles, leaving President Moi to rule unchallenged.

The Forum for the Restoration of Democracy-Asili and the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy-Kenya have self-destructed and left little prospect of a viable challenge to Mr Moi in the next general election which must be called by 1997.

The two forums split from one another along tribal lines in the run-up to Kenya's first multi-party elections in 1992, after more than 20 years of one-party rule, handing the election to Mr Moi. The two parties have fractured further after controversial intra-party elections which have left the Asili forum so divided that it has two national executive committees, and two sets of branch officials across the country.

Meanwhile, elections inside the Kenya forum have driven an irrevocable wedge between Michael Wamalwa, the parliamentary leader of the opposition, and his party rival, Raila Odinga. The polls, insiders said, would have to be rerun in at least ten areas, including the capital, Nairobi, and Mombasa, where the returning officer was taken to hospital after rival factions threw stones at each other and the bishop acting as returning officer resigned in disgust at the mayhem.

Potential voters, and Western donors who put pressure on Mr Moi to allow political pluralism, have been further alienated by Kenneth Matiba, the Asili forum's chairman, who has twice declared that he wants whites and Asians expelled from the former British colony.

Mr Matiba suffered two strokes while in detention in the early 1990s after walking out of Mr Moi's Cabinet to form an underground opposition. Since his illness he has developed a reputation for extreme egotism and a penchant for outrageous statements.

Attempts by Richard Leakey, the Kenyan conservationist and palaeo-anthropologist, to form a coalition under a single presidential candidate to challenge Mr Moi fell apart early in February. Dr Leakey's party, Safina, has been refused registration for nearly a year.

Disgusted with the opposition and impressed by a planned economic recovery programme based on privatisation and an anti-corruption drive, foreign donors recently pledged $760 million (£500 million) for the Kenya Government.

WORLD SUMMARY

Victoria Falls plea ignored

Harare: The Zimbabwe Government yesterday dismissed international appeals for a halt to the building of more hotels and tourist facilities around the Victoria Falls (Jan Raath writes).

The waterfall is a popular tourist destination, but in recent years there have been warnings that further commercialisation will kill off its attractions. The town has 11 hotels, but another four are planned, including one to be managed by the Sheraton hotel group which will protrude above the tree line.

Ministers desert Rao before poll

Delhi: The resignation of two ministers dealt a blow to the Congress Party of P. V. Narasimha Rao, the Indian Prime Minister, before this month's general elections. P. Chidambaram, the Commerce Minister and architect of India's free-market programme, and M. Arunachalam, the junior Industry Minister, quit in protest over Mr Rao's poll alliance with actress Jayalalitha Jayaram's AIADMK party in Tamil Nadu. *(Reuter)*

New Japanese liberal party

Tokyo: Emerging leaders from Japan's ruling and opposition camps intend to draw up to 50 MPs into a new liberal party in June. Hajime Funada, associate chairman of the opposition New Frontier Party, said after meeting Yukio Hatoyama, leader of the New Party Sakigake, the ruling coalition's smallest group: "We share the view we will need a new party." *(AFP)*

Blind driver seen at last

Madrid: José Pinto, 95 per cent blind, who has driven to work for three years, navigating seven miles of traffic by avoiding shadows, was arrested after a tip-off by his employer, Spain's national blind organisation. Police stopped him last year for not having a licence but failed to notice his poor vision. *(AP)*

Foetus shock for woman of 62

São Paulo: A 62-year-old Brazilian woman who complained of stomach pains discovered she was carrying the skeleton of a foetus conceived outside her womb up to 15 years ago, a surgeon said. She went through her menopause ten years ago. *(Reuter)*

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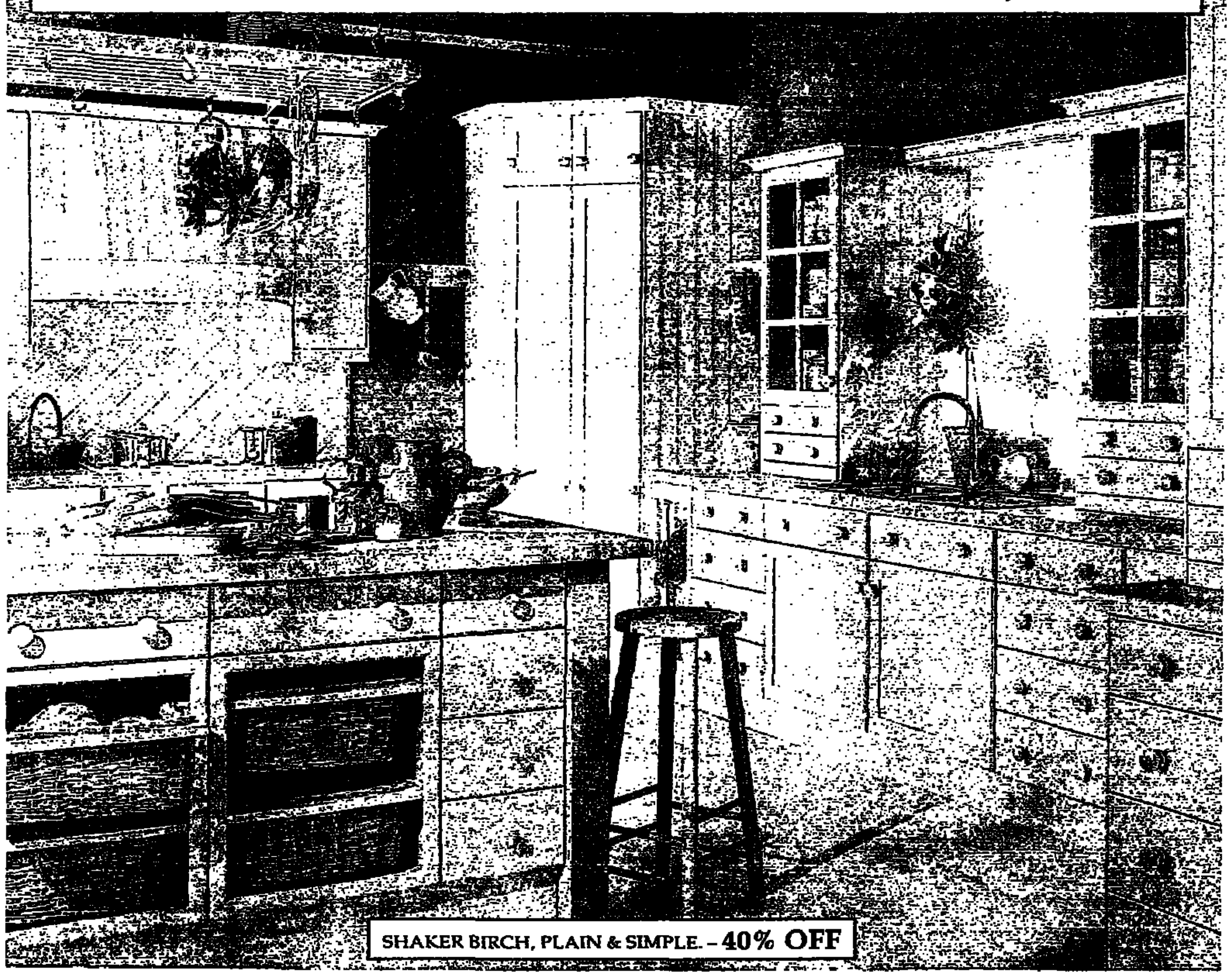

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Outgoing British ambassador warns autocrats of looming showdown with fundamentalists

Arab democracy 'is only way to halt Islamic tide'

FROM MARK HUBAND IN RABAT

ARAB states will be crippled by instability and a worsening crisis of identity unless entrenched rulers increase political freedom, according to a senior British diplomat.

Sir Allan Ramsay, Britain's Ambassador to Morocco until his retirement this week, said that military-backed rulers throughout the Arab world must choose between an end to their autocratic rule or face an increasingly bitter battle with Islamic fundamentalists.

In an interview with *The Times*, Sir Allan, who has spent 40 years as a soldier and diplomat in the Arab world, criticised Arab states for their failure to conduct debate on religious issues, which he sees as threatening the foundations of the Islamic world.

Sir Allan, portraying Islamic fundamentalism as a successor to the failed experiments with Arab nationalism and socialism, predicted extreme instability if the Muslim message failed to provide the Arab world with the sense of identity the fundamentalists claim to have found. "There's a very definite character to Islamism that makes me wonder what will happen if it goes the way of nationalism and socialism. Because Islamism attempts to go to the roots of things, I think it is actually fraught with dangers for the Arabs and for the Islamic religion, because if it does not succeed in its aims then what happens? It doesn't seem to me that there's anything else left, unless there's a reversion to secularism. Islamism is in a sense the last throw of the dice," he said.

Sir Allan: worked in the Arab world for 40 years

Sir Allan said that the governments of the Arab world had failed to steer reform in a way that allowed debate on the separation of religion and politics. He regards such a debate as vital to the stability of the region and the creation of institutions that are capable of bringing development.

"Either you have a reversion to a very ugly form of primitive, very assertive dogmatic Islamism, or you have to go down the path of more participatory politics. Those are the alternatives. I don't think Islam will ever recede," he said. Sir Allan described the Islamic world as largely sapped by the same inertia it experienced when Europe blossomed during the Renaissance.

"Nobody can say to investors with absolute confidence that any country in the Middle East is stable. And they are not stable because too much of the best of all that is available is concentrated in too few hands.

"As an alternative it's not enough to say that the answer is in religion or a return to a simpler structure," he said.

Sir Allan said the gulf between the Islamic and non-Islamic world could not be bridged unless Western countries rediscovered their own spirituality and recognised the importance of religion to Muslims when reassessing the framework for dialogue. "We in the West have to recover something that we have lost if we're to make sense of understanding the Muslim world. Equally, they have to accept that you can't approach a dialogue or any meaningful relationship on the assumption that yours is the conclusive and only system." The maintenance of non-democratic systems and the absence of meaningful debate were the main hindrances to genuine acceptance of Israel by the Arab world, said Sir Allan, who was posted to the British Embassy in Cairo during the 1970s before stints in Afghanistan and Iraq. "If peace, and the existence of Israel is going to become ... accepted ... without involving major inputs of Western diplomacy and military assistance, then this ... has to be accepted by the Arab people at large. And that can only come by their more active involvement in the politics of their own countries, and that can only come through a form of representative democracy," he said.

Arab regimes are accused by Sir Allan Ramsay of failing to prevent the merging of religion and politics

Likud hit by lawsuit on war in Lebanon

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ARIEL SHARON and Binyamin Begin, leading members of Israel's main right-wing opposition Likud Party, are involved in a public slanging match over the true aims of the 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

The politically damaging clash, sparked by a £76,000 lawsuit by Mr Sharon, a former Defence Minister, is regarded as an electoral gift to the ruling Labour Party as it comes less than two months before a general election that could decide the future of the Middle East peace process.

To the dismay of senior Likud campaign officials, Mr Begin, son of the late Prime Minister, Menachem Begin, has openly accused Mr Sharon of misleading his father about his intention to send the army as far as Beirut during the three-year Lebanon war in which 650 Israelis and thousands of Arabs were killed.

"It is clear he [Sharon] misled the Prime Minister on this central issue," wrote Mr Begin in an affidavit submitted to a Tel Aviv court in which Mr Sharon is suing the leading Hebrew paper *Haaretz* and its correspondent, Uzi Benjamin, over an article which claimed: "Menachem Begin knows very well that Sharon deceived him."

Mr Sharon has denied that he had lied to or misled Menachem Begin, who resigned in 1983 and later died at the age of 78, apparently deeply distressed at the course the war had taken.

Colony engaged in phone thuggery

FROM TOM WALKER IN HONG KONG

FROM the place that gave the world kung fu comes the latest in martial arts: the Motorola chop. Hong Kong's overstretched police force is blaming a rising number of knock-out punches on the mobile phone.

With one in six adults in the colony now carrying a phone, hardly a week goes by without someone suffering a cordless crack across the head.

"You could say it's the weapon of choice," said Ray Pierce, the deputy district commander of Mong Kok police station in Kowloon. "People have one in their hand, and they go for it — athough it does seem to be rather expensive."

The latest incident occurred at the weekend when Leung Yan-kam, 60, was attacked by three youths wielding a mobile phone. He had accused them of queue-barging. Mr Leung was admitted to hospital with head injuries.

Last month Wong Yukman, the editor of an anti-China daily entitled *Mad Dog*, was acquitted of charges that he and a colleague had wounded a seafood wholesaler with a mobile phone during a traffic dispute.

In another recent case a court heard how a taxi driver had bludgeoned his girlfriend after discovering her affair with another man. A further incident involved a financial manager accused of hitting his wife with a phone in a Valentine's Day tiff.

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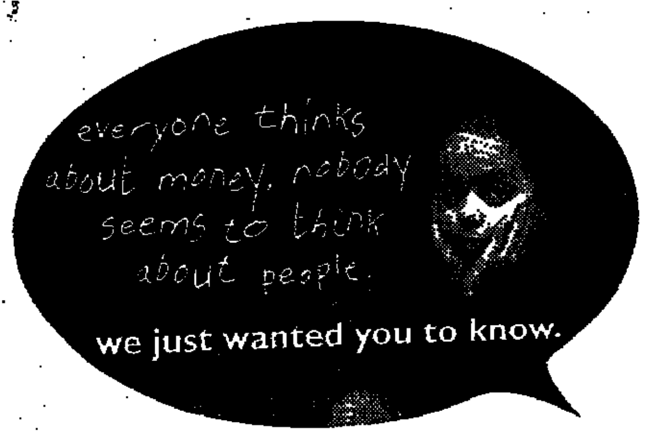
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Owners who want a perfect dog are turning to powerful drugs, Giles Coren **reports**

Why it's a dog's life on Prozac

Afghans get anxious, springer spaniels have rage syndrome, and golden retrievers like these three are prone to obsessive-compulsive disorders

Dogs have everything. First they had dinky little coats and designer sweaters, then special dog hotels, little doggy chocolate boxes, dog weddings (and divorces), then came an anti-quarantine campaign advocating passports for dogs. When it was recognised that they suffered psychological problems not so different from human ones, they started going in for analysis. Now, it seems, they have existential angst, and have joined the trendiest bandwagon of all.

A professor at one of America's top veterinary schools, the appropriately named Tufts University, has just published *The Dog Who Loved Too Much* (Hodder & Stoughton, £8.99) in Britain, and a new era in veterinary treatment is about to come under scrutiny.

Early on in the book comes the announcement that will have Barbara Woodhouse turning in her grave: "Prozac and other psychotropic medications can be used quite effectively for the treatment of many veterinary behavioural problems . . ."

Now, this is all very well in America, where dogs are not put down but "experience euthanasia", and where "high-rise syndrome" generates magazine stories like "Is Your Cat Contemplating Suicide?". But this is England, where a dog is man's best friend, not a "furry family member", and problem pets were traditionally treated with a sack, a reservoir and a large rock.

Dr Nicholas Dodman's rationale for prescribing Prozac hinges on the fact that dogs' brains are structurally and functionally similar to our own, and that the neurotransmitters (which control moods and social and sexual behaviour) are identical in the two species. "It is hardly surprising, then," he writes, "that similar things can go wrong with humans and dogs, or that similar medications can be used for treatment of these problems."

He looks at such difficulties as blanket-sucking in dachshunds, rage syndrome in springer spaniels, anxiety in afghans, and the obsessive-compulsive disorders that are apparently most frequent in labradors and golden retrievers. There is the story of a Jack Russell that is cured of its propensity for telephone-munching by being prescribed Valium, and a rottweiler called Rocky who wears "a spectacular chrome-plated collar" and chews not instruments of telecommunication, but people.

While making clear that he seeks to cure problems by retraining and environmental readjustment, Dr Dodman laments the time that such approaches consume and explains that "drugs such as fluoxetine (Prozac), which increases serotonin levels, can be extremely effective at curtailing dominance-related aggression, enabling owners to quickly gain the upper hand".

This approach is gaining currency in Britain, but according to Dr Roger Mugford, Britain's most influential animal psychologist, it is to be discouraged as strenuously as possible.

"I take a very negative view of these quick-fix drugs," he says. "I have used Prozac in three cases, and seen no benefits at all. Dr Dodman's book is very readable, and many people will find it amusing, but the references to Prozac are overdone."

Dr Mugford's Animal Behaviour Centre, the biggest in the world, has been eyeing developments carefully since a television news item on Dr Dodman's theories was broadcast two years ago. "He had a great dane that was mutilating itself," says Dr Mugford, "and this was going to be the first case of curing the problem with Prozac. But the whole thing was scientifically trashy. The efficacy just isn't scientifically sustained. And I certainly won't be using it again."

The problems seem almost infinite. "For a start, there are the paradoxical effects of using Prozac, which are well documented in human cases. Things are known to get worse before they get better, which a human can easily understand. But how do you explain that to a dog? And if a dog starts to suffer from side-effects he can't just stop taking the drug. And his owner will never know one way or the other, because first results take 40 days to show.

"The book is a good read but a bit unethical. Dr Dodman has come from a pharmacological background, and is not behaviourally orientated — the best way to make a dog happier is to change its lifestyle. And with a dog, the smallest things make all the difference."

For all Dr Dodman's talk of neuro-transmitters, it is this — the fact that you can improve a dog's life so easily — that makes us so different from our pets. It cannot be necessary to prescribe happy-pills to a species that gets excited about chasing a stick.

Back at the Animal Behaviour Centre, veterinary surgeon Samantha Lindley has been fielding dozens of calls from vets all over the country. "It must be all the publicity about Prozac that has got them excited," she says.

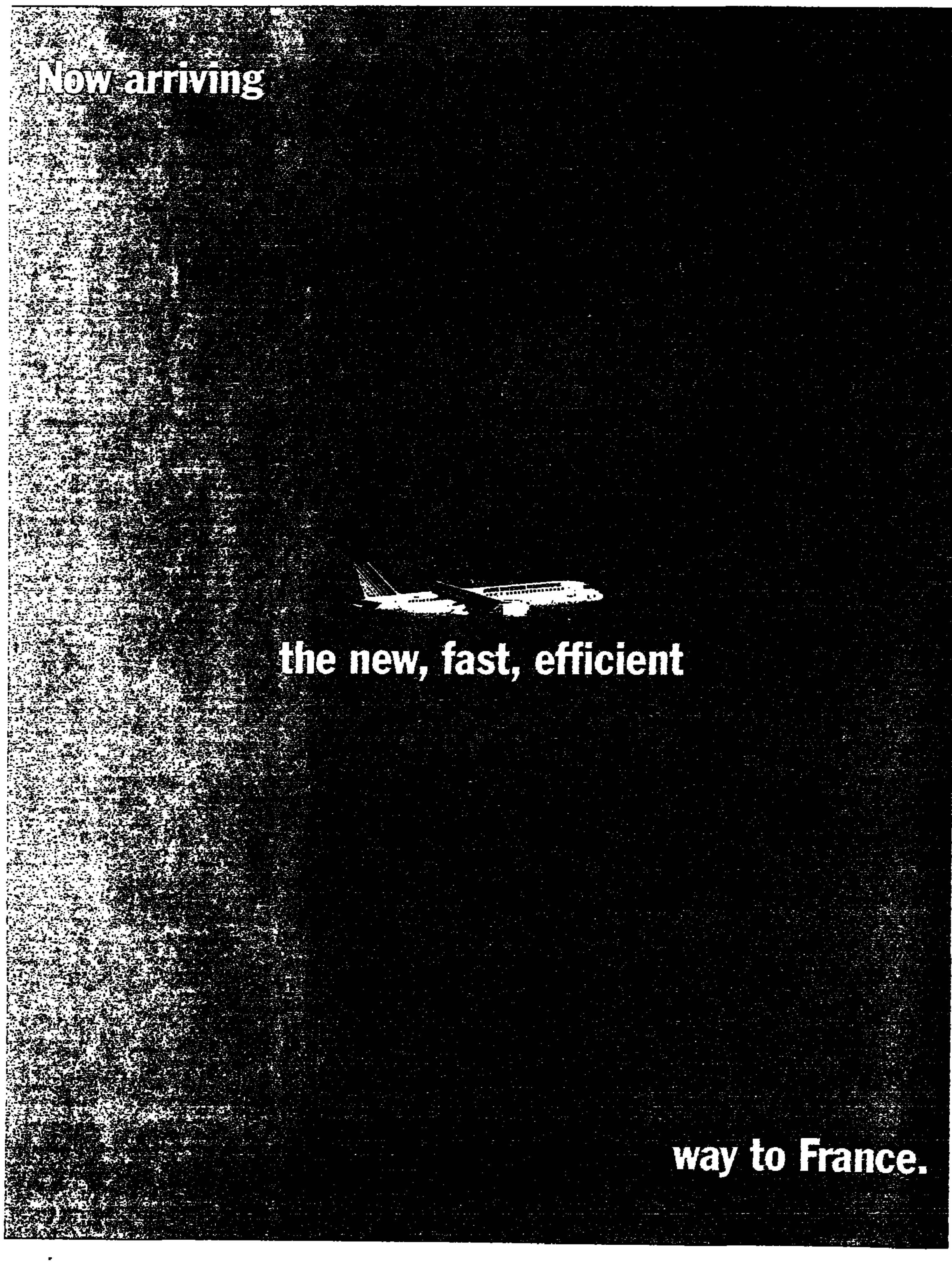
"I got a call recently from a vet who wanted to give it to a cat that was attacking a new cat its owner had recently bought. Well, you can't cure a cat of its natural territorial instincts just like that. There are no zap-'em-quick panaceas. But vets are wanting to use it as a first-line treatment, which would be a disaster, because if you disguise the symptoms you miss any number of clinical reasons why an animal might behave aggressively.

"Prozac is not licensed for use on animals, and Eli Lilly has not promoted it for that. Vets who use it do so without any legal protection. If you found a clinical problem you would never treat it with some new antibiotic that had worked on humans and might or might not be OK for dogs.

"The reason it has caught on in America is that they want animals to conform exactly to their way of life. They must have a perfect dog. But the problem is that dogs *do* bark. And they do get excited when the postman comes, and occasionally pee in the wrong places." If they didn't, they wouldn't be dogs.

As long as the vets keep consulting them, Roger Mugford and Samantha Lindley will endeavour to save us from the Prozac pooches. But the pressure of the transatlantic designer lifestyle may prove too much.

Next time you cry "Lassie, get help", do not be surprised if she returns not with a policeman, but a prescription.



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MEDICAL BRIEFING

◆

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THE news that the Pope had needed surgery for cancer of the colon increased people's awareness of a disease, which accounts for 19,000 deaths in Britain each year, and the demand for screening. An early diagnosis offers the best chance of reducing the present death rate: only a third of patients survive five years after diagnosis.

At the recent meeting of the British Society of Gastroenterology two research projects, reported in *General Practitioner* magazine, demonstrated the success of screening in the detection of cancer of the colon and rectum, and showed that the cost of each life saved by colo-rectal screening was less than that of a life saved by breast screening.

Cancer of the colon is one of the few diseases in which the richer the patient is, the greater ther likelihood of developing the condition. Statistics released by the Cancer Research Campaign show that the highest rates of cancer of the colon occur in social classes one and two, the lowest in four and five, and that there is an intermediate rate for people in social class three. A low-fibre, high-calorie and high-protein diet is suspected of accounting for this.

The Medical Research Council study presented at the gastroenterologists' meeting investigated 533 patients between the ages of 55 and 64 from two Hertfordshire practices who attended for screening with a colonoscope, which involves passing an endoscope from the anus to the appendix. Seventy-five per cent of those invited attended, and 6 per cent of these had polyps which, if they had been left untended, would have been likely in time to have become cancerous.

Another survey showed that examination of all patients over 60 with a flexible sigmoidoscope, a cheaper and easier procedure than colonoscopy, will pick up 80 per cent of the cases in which a potentially malignant polyp is present. Twenty per cent of cancers, and polyps, grow in the large bowel on the left-hand side of the abdomen, where they are beyond the reach of the sigmoidoscope but can be seen with a colonoscope. Throughout the colon flat tumours are more easily missed by the examining doctor than are polypoid ones.

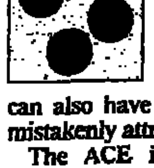
A national screening programme is likely to be at least five years off. Until then, people must watch vigilantly for the early signs of colo-rectal cancer. A recent report in *The Practitioner* draws attention to the importance of rectal bleeding, particularly when it occurs for the first time in an older patient, if the blood is dark rather than bright red, if it is associated with a change of bowel habit, and if there are no haemorrhoids or fissures which could account for it. All rectal bleeding should be reported to the doctor, but bleeding is *not* the only indication of trouble: change in the frequency and the nature of bowel movement, loss of weight and unexplained anaemia are all initial symptoms. Particular care is needed in monitoring patients who have a family history of the disease, or who suffer from ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease.

New chestnuts to join the old

THE horse chestnuts, together with the trees in the way of the planned Newbury bypass, have been felled. That will remove a worry from mothers, for there are well-authenticated reports that conkers if eaten cause kidney failure, liver disease and gastroenteritis. In animals they can cause a breakdown in red blood cells and, by interfering with blood coagulation, haemorrhage.

German doctors have for generations treated varicose veins and piles with extract of horse chestnut. A survey published in *The Lancet* reviewed the treatment with horse-chestnut extract of 200 cases of chronic venous insufficiency, the condition in which fluid collects in the legs after a patient has suffered damage to the deep leg veins. Usually support stockings are recommended to prevent skin pigmentation, dermatitis and chronic ulceration. But, in a trial in Germany, it was found that aescin, a complex substance extracted from horse chestnuts, was as effective.

A rash colour for heart pills



SWEET manufacturers are well aware that some colouring dyes produce adverse effects. Recently, cases reported in the *BMJ* have demonstrated that the colouring used in some pills can also have side-effects which could be mistakenly attributed to the actual drug.

The ACE inhibitor, enalapril, recommended for the treatment of high blood pressure and heart failure, can cause skin rashes. In one or two cases a rash has been shown to be related to the colouring matter in the tablet, and when the pills have been changed the rash has disappeared.

This occasional reaction should not discourage other people from taking enalapril. These ACE inhibitors have been shown to be very effective, but less than a third of patients with heart failure are receiving them. The medical journal *Monitor* recently contrasted the increasingly effective treatment of some chronic diseases such as asthma and diabetes with the laisser faire approach to heart failure.

The strange goings on in Sark

Lord McAlpine, left, explains the extraordinary dispute between two brothers who are determined to realise a childhood dream and the man who is the feudal lord on the tiny island of Sark

Two weeks ago, a case entered the Court of Guernsey that may well end up by changing, beyond recognition, life on the island of Sark. This case, between the Barclay family and Michael Beaumont, the Seigneur of Sark, is complicated in the extreme.

Pages of genealogy were presented to the court by the Barclays' lawyer and I have no doubt that many more will be tabled in the next round. These documents prove, so the Barclays claim, that the island of Brecqhou is not and never has been a part of Sark. As a result of this, Mr Beaumont has pocketed £179,000 — or a treizième — of the purchase price the Barclays paid for the island. This treizième is not a tax payable for the benefit of the people of the island, but solely the personal income of the Seigneur.

These laws force property to change hands, and only when this happens can the Seigneur take his cut

Two more disparate types than the two Barclay brothers and Mr Beaumont would be hard to find. Frederick and David Barclay have spent most of their lives in the hard world of international finance, building from nothing a commercial empire that crosses the spectrum from the Ritz Hotel in London to *The European* and *Scotsman* newspapers to oil supertankers.

Michael Beaumont, the Seigneur, inherited Sark from his grandmother, Dame Sybil Hathaway. At the time, he was an engineer working at British Aerospace. As a result, Mr Beaumont is entitled to the treizième, or one thirteenth, of the sale price of all property traded on the island.

Sark has not always been in the hands of Mr Beaumont's family. For almost 300 years of the island's history, it was the property of the de Cataret family, having been granted to Philip de Cataret by Elizabeth I in 1565, conditional on de Cataret maintaining 40 men with muskets to secure the island from pirates.

Mr Beaumont's family came into possession of the island in 1846, when they acquired Sark by foreclosing on a £4,000 mortgage. Eminent genealogists advising the Barclay family hold the view that while the Seigneur may well have title to Sark, neither he nor any of his predecessors has, or has had, any feudal title over the island of Brecqhou.

In common with most legal wrangles, there is more to this case than meets the eye.

The Barclay brothers have long lived in Monaco but they have, since their youth, known of the island of Brecqhou. When they were young, they were taken to Sark for their holidays. Brecqhou, an island fortress, always seemed to them a place filled with romance and the thought germinated all those years ago that, should they succeed in life, one day they would make it their own.

Almost three years ago, Brecqhou came on the market and the Barclays bought it and set about building a considerable home there. This home has become the object of much curiosity. It is not, however, a nuclear bunker, nor is it a fortress against the world. Rather, it is a grand country house designed by the architect Quinlan Terry in the tradition of those built by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

Soon after they bought the island, the Barclays set out to be amiable and generous neighbours to Sark. There was, however, one principle they insisted on — the right to leave their property in their wills to whoever they pleased. They suggested to the Seigneur's lawyer that a trust could be formed to ensure that right, for on Sark only the eldest son can inherit unless there are no male heirs, in which case right passes to the eldest daughter. Furthermore, no woman is entitled to divorce on Sark.

Surely the Seigneur could not be serious about enforcing these archaic laws? Indeed, he was. The Seigneur intended to enforce them to the letter with, as far as he is concerned, very good reason. These laws force property to change hands, and only when property changes hands can the Seigneur take his cut.

Everyone knows that Sark is a quaint old place and all the better, no doubt, for being just that. Just how quaint the laws of Sark are is not generally known. The Parliament of Sark, called the Chief Pleas, meets three times a year and is composed of the 40 landowners on the island, presided over by Michael Beaumont the Seigneur, a Seneschal, a Greffier & Treasurer, the Constable and an obscure functionary called the Prevot, whose main job is to feed any prisoner in the jail.

There is much pomp and ceremony at this parliament. Among other quaint traditions, the Lord's Prayer is read in French. Islanders who do not own land, of whom there are more than 500, are obliged to huddle in silence at the back of the schoolroom where the parliament sits, while the unelected landowners plan the future.

This is quaint enough as a tourist attraction, but as a parliamentary chamber, where all the members sit only by permission of the Seigneur, it is somewhat unsatisfactory. Sark is an island with a population of 550 people, where only 40 of them have a say in its running.

No village or small town on mainland Britain would tolerate this situation. Nor, I suspect, would they tolerate a situation where the local policeman and magistrate are appointed by the Lord of the Manor.

Sark is a quiet place, on the whole, and I have no doubt that Michael Beaumont's appointee as policeman is capable of dealing with returning stray cows to their owners, as indeed the local judge, a farmer who has no legal training but acts as a coroner and has the power to imprison and fine, is no doubt quite capable of dealing with disputes over those stray cattle.

The case between the Barclays and Mr Beaumont will, I have no doubt, run and run. It will move from court to court until such time as it reaches the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

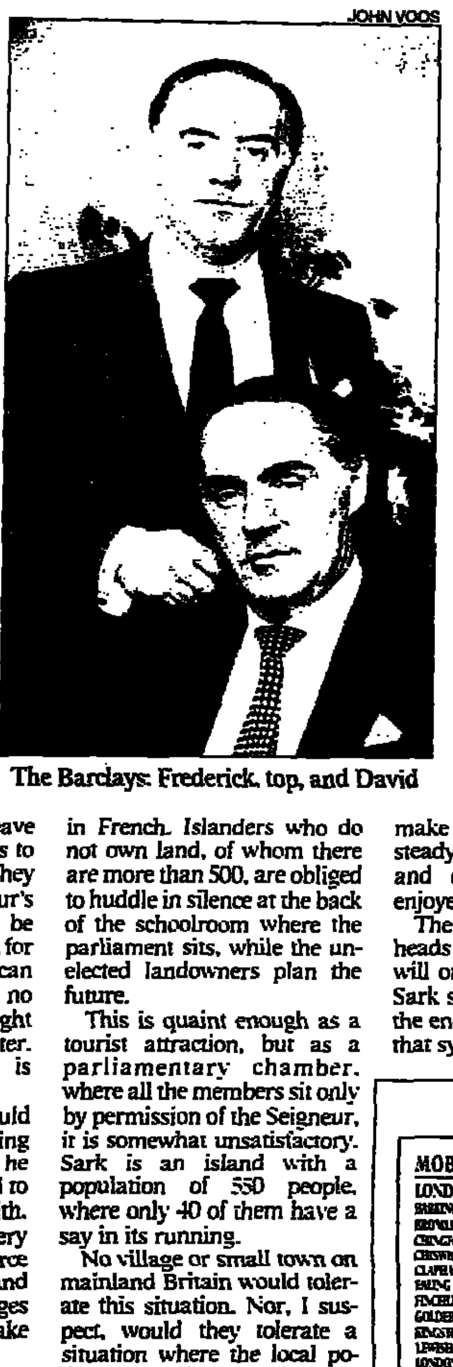
In the course of this legal wrangle, even some of those who live on Sark will begin to question the legitimacy of the Seigneur's authority over them, as people all over the world are demanding more clarity in the laws by which they are governed.

They, like the Barclays, want to know whether their property is theirs to enjoy unhindered, for the eventual benefit of their heirs. Whoever they may be, they want to know that they are guaranteed basic human rights and they want their rulers to be open, democratically elected and accountable.

Some very simple amendments to Beaumont's law on Sark would put these iniquities right. Changes of this nature would legitimise Sark's parliament, strengthen that institution and make it possible to halt the steady erosion of the unique and delightful way of life enjoyed on the island.

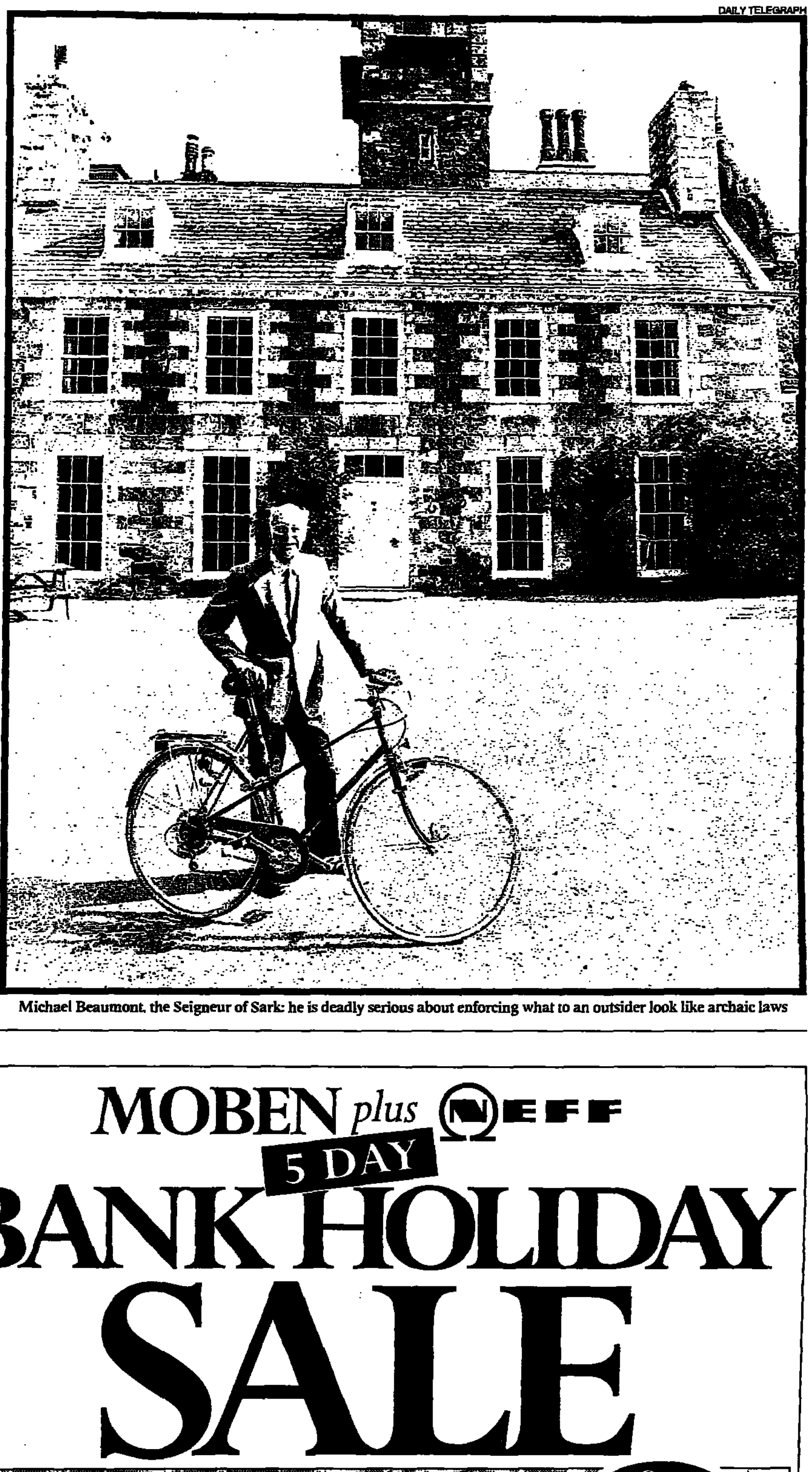
The continual burying of heads in the island's sands will only leave the system on Sark so open to attack that in the end a complete collapse of that system is inevitable.

JOHN VOOS



The Barclays: Frederick, top, and David

DAILY TELEGRAPH



Michael Beaumont, the Seigneur of Sark: he is deadly serious about enforcing what to an outsider look like archaic laws

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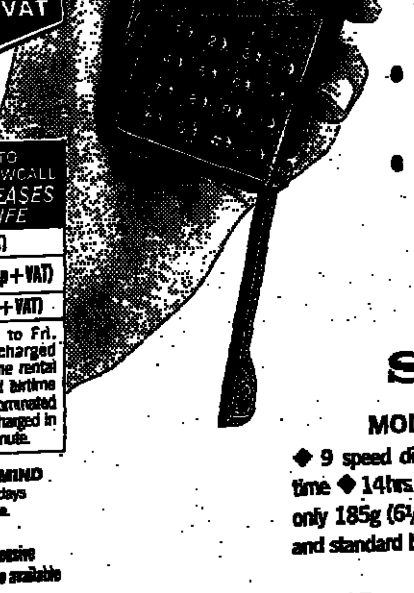

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Drink and drugs are twin demons

Magnus Linklater offers a chaser for our irrational fears

Walking out of court, heads bowed, the three 19-year-olds offered few clues to link them with the orgy of destruction that had brought them there. They wore short haircuts, well-pressed suits and patterned ties. They were, as the police conceded, well-brought-up middle-class boys. Yet, in the space of just a few hours, they had, in the judge's words, "exulted in a rampage of violence", beating and kicking a church caretaker, then attacking a witness who came to his aid, with such force that they left the imprint of their shoes on his face and arm.

The assaults by three pupils from Cardiff High School, sentenced to two years' youth custody on Monday, were hardly on the same level as the squalid murder carried out by three British soldiers in Cyprus the previous week. But in both cases what turned a perfectly ordinary trio of young men into a gang of hoodlums was a massive intake of alcohol. Both had spent the evening ordering drink after drink until they had reached that state where the brakes are let off and instincts career out of control. Alcohol was the fatal accelerator.

What is surprising is that none of the outraged coverage that followed the Cyprus attack, and, to a lesser extent, the rampage of the Cardiff schoolboys, included any indictment of a drug that is at least as lethal as heroin or crack cocaine. Here was clear evidence of a widely available intoxicant turning perfectly ordinary human beings into potential killers, unleashing aggression on a murderous scale. Yet no one bothered to question its contribution to violence, the pernicious effect it can have on young people, or the chemistry that turns a jolly drunk into an aggressive lout. The demon drink, that menace to society that so obsessed the legislators and moralisers of the Victorian era, seems to have become just another aspect of modern life, like it or lump it. Indeed so accustomed are we to that most companionable of drugs that the Government feels able to suggest that we can drink a little more, that alcohol can have a beneficial effect on our health.

Why do we so readily tolerate drink while remaining so implacably hostile to other drugs? It is not hard to imagine the headlines and column inches which would have resulted if, say, the soldiers had been high on LSD, or the boys had been smoking cannabis. The response would have been immediate and horrified, with MPs pressing for new regulations, police launching all-out war on the pushers, and leader columns inveighing against the perils that beset modern youth.

The tragic case of Leah Betts, the teenager who died after taking an Ecstasy tablet, led to a national debate about the widespread use of drugs at teenage raves: in Scotland, the illegal use of Temazepam, a sleeping pill which can cause medical complications, prompted its banning, simply on the ground that it causes "misery and despair in our towns and cities"; a middle-aged lady who grew cannabis for medicinal purposes in an upstairs room was jailed for 18 months, with the judge cautioning against the hazards of such antisocial behaviour.

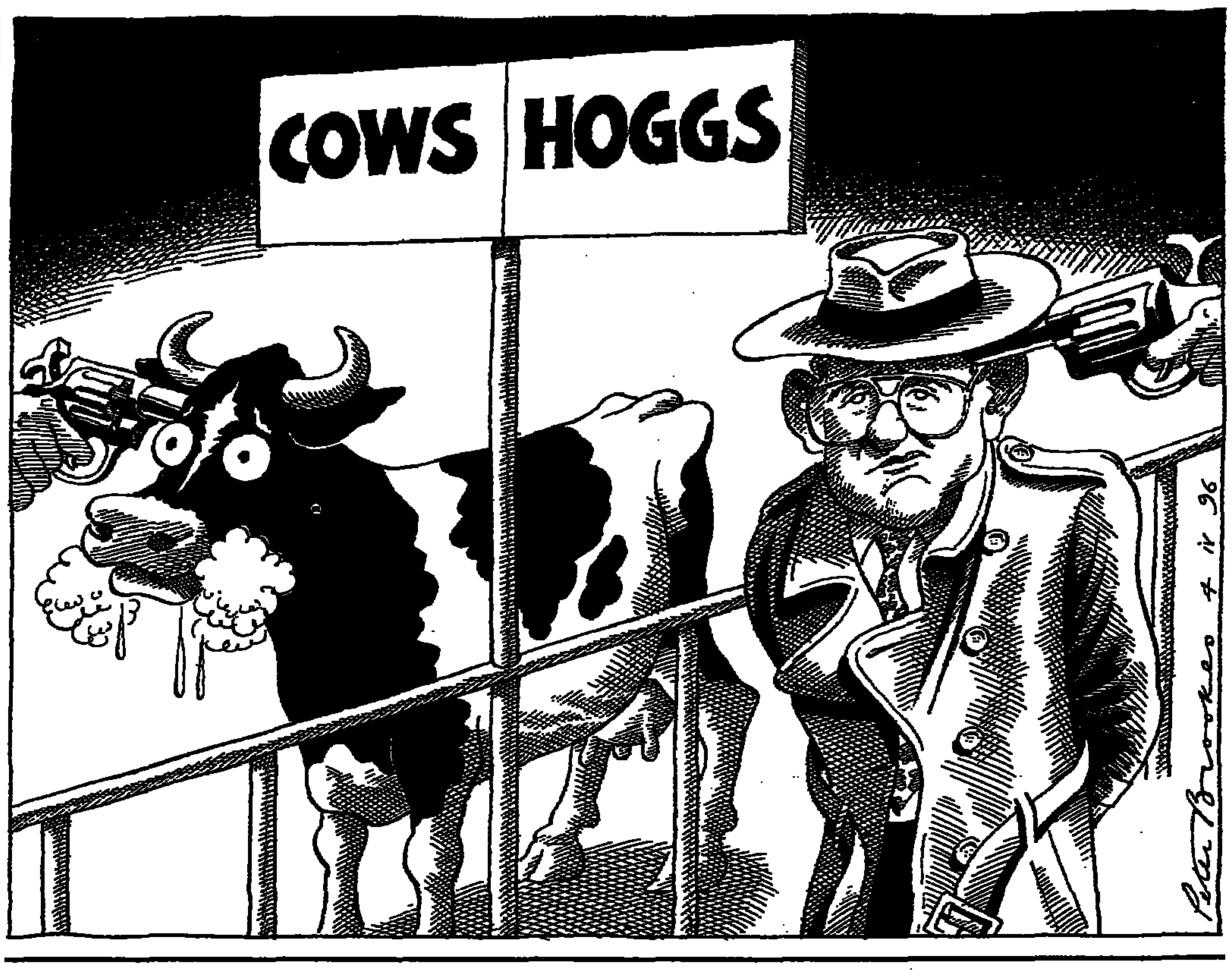
The gap in attitudes cannot just be put down to drugs being more dangerous than alcohol. Drink, after all, is a factor in 70 per cent of homicides, 43 per cent of assaults and 82 per cent of disorder cases. For all the concerns about drug induced crime waves, nothing that heroin or cocaine induce can compare with statistics such as these. Nor can it be said that more deaths are caused by drug addiction than by alcoholism. Deaths associated with alcohol far outstrip those related to drug-abuse. At the same time, alcohol consumption among young people is growing far faster than that of drugs.

In his 1960s study, *Narcotic Addiction in Britain and America*, Edwin Shur made a depressingly simple observation. There was, he said, no basic difference between the two addictions. They had similarities in cause and effect. However, society had accepted one and not the other. "In both Britain and America," he wrote, "the use of alcohol is a widely approved form of social behaviour." We are used to it, it is part of our social fabric. We know, or we think we know, all about its pernicious effects but in the end we prefer what Seamus Heaney called "swimming towards the lure of warm-lit places" to dabbling with the bleak uncertainty of drugs.

What if the Cyprus soldiers had been high on LSD?

And there, in the end, is the real distinction. Alcohol equals familiarity. Drugs equal fear. We fear drugs because we do not fully understand them. We see in them the source of a deep corruption which gnaws at the foundations of society, which alienates young people, and undermines traditional values. To most of us there is nothing "companionable" about drugs; they are a symbol of hostility and rejection. It is this fear which precludes sensible public debate about drugs and their legal status. Any talk of relaxing the law or reassessing our attitudes is considered political suicide. Clare Short was firmly slapped down by Tony Blair for daring even to suggest that it might be a suitable matter for discussion. Even the Liberal Democrats wince when their delegates raise it at conferences.

This is absurd. No one is seriously proposing the reintroduction of prohibition to combat abuse of drink. Nor would it be sensible to lift all restrictions on the use of hard drugs. But to tolerate the one unquestioningly while consigning the other to forbidden territory resolves nothing. They are sides of the same coin. Understanding the one might help to resolve the issues raised by the other.



A question of Europe

The single currency would spell death for many British jobs

William Rees-Mogg

John Major has got it right. The decision on a referendum is the best that has been made by the Government in a long time. It has not been easy, but that makes it all the sweeter: Kenneth Clarke resisted and bargained to the end, but the actual decision has not made any unacceptable concession to him. John Major has avoided the fatal trap of letting Mr Clarke appear the strongest figure in his Cabinet. But that is almost the least of the benefits.

The Prime Minister has now drawn a line below British policy on the single European currency, and made it depend on the consent of the British public. Had he done the same thing during the Maastricht negotiations, his position then would have been much stronger. Chancellor Kohl uses the political strength of Germany in a ruthless way to impose his European policies on the Cabinets and Parliaments of his European partners. These German pressures are powerful, but they are not going to overawe the British people. From now on, any currency decision not acceptable to the British electorate will not be accepted by Britain. That is a safeguard, but also a negotiating advantage.

The referendum decision also confirms and extends the constitutional doctrine which was established in that enjoyable Maastricht case, "The Queen *v* the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, *ex parte* the Rt Hon the Lord Rees-Mogg, 1993". The costs of that case were paid by Sir James Goldsmith, who has also played a noble part in the campaign for a referendum. The High Court followed the ancient precedent in accepting that "the Government could not lawfully transfer any part of the Crown's prerogative powers in relation to foreign affairs without statutory enactment". The Government cannot use the prerogative power to alienate any part of the prerogative power. The referendum expands this constitutional doctrine because it accepts the principle that the Government cannot properly use the power of Parliament to alienate the power of Parliament, in a permanent way, without the consent of the people. The whips cannot vote away our liberties without our consent.

John Major has also outmanoeuvred Tony Blair, or at least Tony Blair has outmanoeuvred himself. He now has to decide whether to bring Labour referendum policy into line with the Government's, which would at best be a tactical humiliation, or to stay with his present unsatisfactory commitment. Labour's present policy is to obtain public consent to a single currency either by way of a referendum or in a general election. Obviously a general election, in which the currency question would be mixed with many other issues, would be an extremely bad way of seeking public consent.

In practice it has now become almost unthinkable that a Labour government, if elected, would take Britain into a single currency without a referendum. That would split the Labour Party and unite, or almost unite, the Tories and the Liberal Democrats. Tony Blair finds himself at present stranded in a position which is damaging to him in Opposition, and will be even more damaging in Government. It is his first big mistake, and he would do well to put it right as soon as possible. He can no more afford to give Gordon Brown a veto on his European policy than John Major could afford to give it to Kenneth Clarke.

In present circumstances, there would be no majority in Britain for joining a single currency. Of course, those circumstances could change, and if the British public, after full debate, does want to join a single currency at some future date, that will be their decision. But such a decision would require a very different Europe, a Europe which solved rather than creating problems for Britain, a Europe of low costs, high competitiveness and low unemployment. This week's meeting of the Group of Seven countries in Lille showed how far Europe is from such a state of affairs.

In the business section of Tuesday's *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, one of the great newspapers of Europe, there was a table showing the January unemployment levels of the G7 countries. Japan was lowest with only 3.4 per cent; the US had 5.7; UK, 8.4; Germany, 8.6; Canada, 9.5; France, 12.0 and Italy, 12.5. These are very bad figures for continental Europe, all the worse as each country has a further band of concealed unemployment among trainees and those who have retired early. No wonder that *Le Figaro*, on the same day, commented that "this situation will become explosive if it persists". In France, a social explosion means riots in the streets of Paris.

In the whole European Union, the attempt to meet the Maastricht convergence criteria for a single currency is having a deflationary effect. Not since the early 1930s has a group of powers adopted the perverse policy of deflating in a period of high unemployment. Europe has also lost growth and competitiveness compared to Asia: in the past ten years the Pacific tiger economies have doubled in size, while the continental European economies have grown by only about a quarter.

The French were the hosts at the Lille conference, and largely set the agenda. President Chirac called for a third way between the open market Anglo-American economies and the social market economies of the European model; his third way turned out to have very little in it that was Anglo-American. Despite American objections, the communiqué reaffirmed the old European attitudes, and committed the G7 countries to more deflationary budgets, to "modernising" the regulation of goods and services, and to promoting "security of employability" rather than mobility of labour. These social market policies have produced Europe's unemployment rate of over 11 per cent. The single currency would cement this high unemployment in place and extend it to Britain. It would make Euro-sclerosis incurable.

French attitudes are swinging even further towards what could be called a social fortress Europe. The leading article in *Le Figaro* which rightly warns of a potential explosion if unemployment continues to rise also gives characteristic French remedies: higher tariffs, less investment in competitive countries, making trade conditional on the social welfare expenditure of other countries, and fixed exchange rates. "In order to save jobs [in Europe], it is the world that has to be changed."

Without a commitment to a referendum, Britain might have been taken into such a Europe, for which the single currency would be an essential condition, against the wishes of the British people. We might have been sandbagged. Once trapped, it might have been very hard to get out, at least without leaving the European Union altogether. Yet this social fortress Europe has no chance of success: it offers nothing but high costs, high taxes, low growth, high unemployment and economic decline, all of which are only too evident in the continental Europe of the 1990s. This was the British disease of our socialist period, when a relatively open-market Continent was growing so much faster than us; it is now the German disease, the French disease, the Spanish disease, the European disease in general.

The latest trends show that the prospect for European unemployment is actually worsening. The European Commissioner for Monetary Affairs, Yves-Thibault de Silguy, announced this week that the OECD was lowering its forecast for growth in 1996. The forecast for the first half of this year has been reduced from 2.6 to 1.5 per cent, well below the level of stable employment. European ministers attack the commitment of the Anglo-Americans to competitiveness and labour mobility, but the United States has been responsible for a very large part of the job creation in the G7 countries, in contrast to the export of jobs from Germany. Britain's unemployment has been falling while the European average was rising.

What about the Labour Party? What about Tony Blair? Of course, some parts of the social fortress policy are attractive to Labour. Tony Blair has a constituency, part of which would like a protected, high-cost, high-welfare labour market. But will Labour pay the price of becoming the high-unemployment party, and would people vote for them if they did? A single European currency adopted without a referendum is an issue on which Labour could still lose the next election. "Vote Labour and lose your job" would not make a good election slogan, yet the single currency would be death for British jobs as it is already proving for French.

Buttercup knows best

Heed the wisdom of the cow, says Paul Heiney

With 15,000 beasts a week about to be flung on the bonfire, it is time to look at the beef crisis from the cow's point of view. When it comes to making milk and meat, cows know best: and although Buttercup has warned us often enough during the past decade, we have ignored the signs which were all too plainly telling us that she thought things were not right.

Those who have been lucky enough in their lives to have kept cows (as I have until quite recently) know them to be benign, benevolent and reserved creatures. Other cultures have worshipped them, and if you have spent any time with your head next to the warm flank of the cow while drawing milk from her udder, it is not difficult to see why. Cows are good friends.

And in return for their generosity, how have we thanked them? We have made them our current public enemy number one. But that is just one of a catalogue of crimes committed against the modern dairy cow. Ask vets who attend highly efficient herds. They will tell you of lameness, oversized udders, illness due to stress. The modern dairy cow works so hard for her (until recently, poisoned) rations that she is, literally, knackered after four or five years. Under less pressure she could be productive into her teens. Now, with the beef crisis all her fault too, we bestow the final indignity upon her: a parting shot from the slaughterman's gun before throwing her to the flames.

To ensure this shameful episode is never repeated, we must humbly and apologetically turn to the cow and ask her what kind of life she would like to lead. My guess is that she wants to work under a tightly controlled system, with regular inspections, rules about the contents of her feed and how much time she must spend at grass: strict rules too about how long her calves must suckle, and how they are subsequently fattened for beef.

She must no longer be used as a veterinary pin cushion — except when she is unwell — and never routinely given drugs "just in case". Milk her yes, but do not milk her for all she has got. Let her live a full working life, as cows used to. This system of farming is called *organic*, and not only cows but consumers need it now as they have never before.

At this point, modern farmers groan. To them this is as tactless as whispering "mineral water" to a drunk. They mumble about loss of yields, world shortages of food, diseased crops, as if they had all the answers to these problems. The demand for wholesome food, they will tell us, patronisingly, is no more than a niche market. What British agriculture, more than any other in Europe, has failed to recognise is that organic farming is no longer a hobby practised by men in beards and sandals, living up mountains, knitting wholemeal socks. Almost 10 per cent of German farms are now organic, compared to a mere 0.3 per cent here.

Organic farming is based upon modern science backed by international but underfunded research, and on the deeply moral principle that the only way to farm now and for the future is by working with the principles of nature and not against them.

But there will be a price to pay. And although it has been easy so far to nod in agreement, you must now decide whether or not you are prepared to pay for this. Organic farming yields less milk, meat, cereal and vegetables, because it is less exploitative. At this point the modern agriculturalist will mutter, "less efficient" — but we have seen where his efficiency has got us. If meat becomes more expensive and we return to the day when a chicken was a treat worth waiting for, and a joint of beef a celebration, where would be the harm in that? No one is going to die for the want of a cheap cut of beef. Some nutritionists argue we would be the healthier for better beef, eaten less often.

If it is still thought that cheap milk is necessary for children's health, let us spend money subsidising organic milk for poorer families' sake. For those who do not like beef, nor care much about children's health, it could be regarded as a subsidy for the traditional fields and meadows which make the countryside pleasant. Cattle like them too; it has to be better than being reared in a dark barn.

It seems likely that the health risk from eating beef has been very small. That it has caused such panic out of all proportion to the risk is a symptom of a deep mistrust of the practices of modern farming and food production, and throwing thousands of old cows to the flame will do little to change this. Do not fall for any of the slick slogans with which the supermarkets will be bombarding us in the coming weeks. They mean very little. Ignore the "farm-fresh", the "traditionally reared", anything with the devalued word "natural" in it, and instead look for the Organic symbol. It is the one that has Buttercup's vote.

THE TIMES DIARY

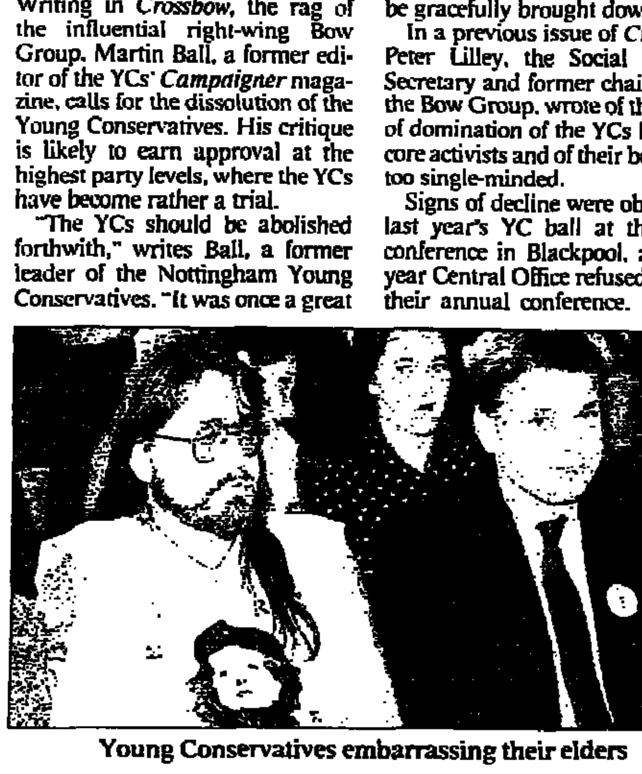
Yahoo's over

DANDRUFF is flying among the Young Conservatives over a broadside written by one of their own. Writing in *Crossbow*, the rag of the influential right-wing Bow Group, Martin Ball, a former editor of the YCs' *Campaigner* magazine, calls for the dissolution of the Young Conservatives. His critique is likely to earn approval at the highest party levels, where the YCs have become rather a trial.

"The YCs should be abolished forthwith," writes Ball, a former leader of the Nottingham Young Conservatives. "It was once a great organisation, with considerable impact and enormous influence. Time's up, and the curtain should be gracefully brought down."

In a previous issue of *Crossbow*, Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary and former chairman of the Bow Group, wrote of the threat of domination of the YCs by hard-core activists and of their becoming too single-minded.

Signs of decline were obvious at last year's YC ball at the party conference in Blackpool, and this year Central Office refused to fund their annual conference. Michael Heseltine was heckled in Blackpool by rightwingers fiercely opposed to the EU, while the highlight of the evening was a tawdry "Saturday Night Fever" dance-off. The days of YC tennis parties and decorous dinner dances are clearly long gone.



Young Conservatives embarrassing their elders

● *There is a strut about Lord St John of Fawsley. Is it on account of his re-election yesterday to the chair of the Royal Fine Arts Commission? Or could it be due to his continuing friendship with Princess Margaret? I spotted the pair gossipping away on Tuesday night at the National Theatre, where they sat through Schiller's* Mary Stuart.

Gulp? Glug!

THERE's something of a sinking feeling among Boat Race crews this year. Mike Sweeney, the chairman of Henley Royal Regatta, is umpiring once again, but his record is troubled.

He has been an umpire four times before: only once, in 1988, have the waters been smooth. On the first occasion, in 1984, Cambridge ploughed into a barge and the race had to be postponed for 24 hours. In 1986, there was chaos when the Cambridge boat and its following flotilla struggled to hold their positions when Oxford were late reaching the stake-boat. Then in 1990, equipment broke in the Oxford boat five minutes before the start, which was badly delayed.

Even as Cambridge president in the 1960s, "Sinker" Sweeney made headlines when his crew almost drowned and the boat was smashed up in training by a freak squall. "The potential for disaster is enormous," he says.

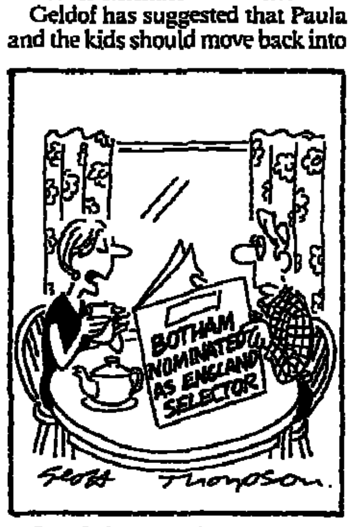
Rock-like

ROMAN Catholics in Gibraltar are on the march. The only supermarket on the rock, Safeway, is for the first time ever to open on Good Friday, a decision which the Catholic Bishop of Gibraltar, Bernard Devlin, has called "an affront" to Christians. Even the Church of England, never known to take a stand when buckling under pressure is easier, is supporting a boycott of the store.

Yates trouble

PAULA YATES has received an extraordinary offer from her estranged husband, Bob Geldof, in response to stories of her penury. She is under threat of eviction from her Clapham home: mortgage arrears are mounting: she has three kids and is expecting her fourth by her lover Michael Hutchence.

Geldof has suggested that Paula and the kids should move back into her old Chelsea home with himself and his French girlfriend Jeanne Marine. Even Paula couldn't cope with such a ménage. "I don't think it would be healthy for anyone, least of all the kids."


BOTHAM NOMINATED AS ENGLAND SELECTOR
Geoff Thompson

"It might have been wise to drop the 'Beefy' nickname"

Selective quote

LET'S HOPE that Ian Botham *is* elected as an England cricket selector, for it should lead to some humdinging selection meetings.

For although he was the consummate diplomat yesterday, breezily talking of his cordial relationship with the selectors' chairman, Raymond Illingworth, his autobiography paints an altogether different relationship.

Botham wrote that the decision to make Illingworth chairman "almost defied belief". He referred to him and his cronies as "senior citizens" and "the Sanatogen Set", and wrote: "Here was a man aged 61, whose only contact with players under 50 years old was from his seat in the press box or the television commentary position, where he had managed to spend the best part of the previous ten years contradicting himself by criticising their efforts one minute, then praising them the next."

P·H·S

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THE PROTECTION PAPER

The Home Secretary is right to respond to public concern

The quality of mercy at the Tory party conference is often quite strained. The reforms in the White Paper on sentencing published yesterday by the Home Secretary, after being roundly applauded by Tory representatives in Blackpool last October, were inevitably criticised by the legal and penal establishments. Accusations of populism have been flung at Michael Howard and points have been scored on both sides.

When all the shouting is over, however, the White Paper emerges as a worthy attempt to safeguard the public and reinforce faith in criminal justice. There is a consensus across the country, and now across the floor of the Commons, that punishments have too often failed to fit crimes. The White Paper reflects that.

The public is dismayed by inconsistency and leniency towards serious offenders. Its concerns have been reflected in a retreat from liberal arguments by Labour. Last week the Shadow Home Secretary, Jack Straw, argued that current sentencing is "inadequate in terms of deterrence and reform, consistency and progression".

The White Paper contains proposals for mandatory minimum sentences for persistent burglars and drug dealers and mandatory life sentences for those who repeat violent and sexual offences. It aims also to make sentencing more straightforward by ending automatic early release.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, has already attacked the Home Secretary for seeking to guide the judicial hand. Lord Taylor is understandably unhappy about any erosion of his profession's privileges but he should have a care in criticising Mr Howard. The public demand for reform has been given point by erratic judgments. Ministers should not trespass clumsily on the ground that our constitutional tradition wisely leaves to judges. But politicians have a role to play in reflecting public concerns and ensuring that the faith in our justice system on which the rule of law ultimately depends is not eroded.

The Home Secretary is entirely within his constitutional rights. Sir Thomas Bingham, the Master of the Rolls, has argued: "As Parliament can prescribe a maximum penalty without infringing the constitutional independence of the judges, so it can prescribe a minimum." It is a power that should be used sparingly but there is a clear case for its use with career criminals and persistent violent and sexual offenders.

Introducing mandatory life sentences does not mean that ministers are deciding detention in the manner of Paraguayan police chiefs. It simply means that they are building another check into the system to ensure that vicious criminals prone to offend again are not released prematurely.

At present, rapists can walk free at the end of their sentences even if they are still a threat to society. In 1994, 40 serious offences were committed by individuals released without any assessment of risk. The White Paper would leave judges free to fix the tariff, the minimum amount that had to be spent in jail, but ensure that offenders could be kept in prison if likely to reoffend. The decision would be for the Parole Board, not the Home Secretary. Ministers are attempting to protect the public, not disrupt due process or usurp judges.

The Home Secretary is right to respond to public concerns and is doing so within legitimate limits. But he has a duty to consider all the consequences of his actions. Lord Taylor has argued that rapists, faced with the certainty of life if caught, will be inclined to murder victims, eliminating an eyewitness without paying the extra penalty. It would be a strong argument against Mr Howard if it were a credible picture of the rapist's mind.

One other consequence of stiffening sentencing might be increasing the prison population. Tougher penalties may deter some but the prospect of increasing incarceration is real. The taxpayer will have to bear that cost but 91 per cent of people in a recent poll said that they were prepared to. The State should never be eager to plunder its citizens' pockets but its first duty is to protect the innocent. Prison may not always reform but it protects; and protection is what the public demands and deserves.

BACK IN UKRAINE

Western interest is rising — but not fast enough

John Major's soon-to-be-announced decision to spend a day in Kiev on his way to the Moscow nuclear summit underlines a vital British interest. Ukraine is the pivot of the changing East European balance. The Russian Duma vote to reconstitute the Soviet Union has alarmed all the former Soviet republics; and Tuesday's decision by Russia and Belorussia to take the first steps towards reunification has boosted the nationalist cause in both countries and sharply increased pressure on their southern neighbour, Ukraine.

An involuntary reincorporation of Ukraine, the size of France with a population as large as Britain's, would be seen in the West as the start of a new Russian empire, a new East-West confrontation and an unwelcome revival of Nato's original purpose. Post-Communist stability in the East depends on a vigorous, prosperous and free Ukraine.

That necessity was masked in the first three years of independence by the country's less than impressive record. Politics were in the grip of ex-Communists posing as nationalists; market reform barely made any headway; press freedom and human rights fared no better than in Soviet days. But since the election of President Kuchma, things have begun to change quickly. A real effort is under way to privatise the potentially rich economy. Ukraine has gained the confidence of the International Monetary Fund and stabilised its currency.

The country has turned its face to the West, playing a useful role in Bosnia, in the Council of Europe and in the concert of European nations. Patience and conciliation have replaced stridency and nationalism, soothing Kiev's tense relations with Crimea, easing cultural differences between east and west Ukraine and bringing negotiations with Moscow over the division of the Black Sea Fleet near to agreement.

Ukraine, nevertheless, remains acutely suspicious of Russia, irked by what it sees as Western indifference and disappointed that so far Europe has granted far less aid than America, which now gives more to Ukraine than to any other country except Israel and Egypt. Mr Major should emphasise that he, at least, has not forgotten the country. British investment may be less than its European partners', but is poised to rise swiftly. Britain is among those European Union members pushing hardest for greater market access for the EU's eastern neighbours. And Britain, as a leading Nato power, wants a stable and transparent relationship between Ukraine and an enlarged Atlantic Alliance.

The importance of Ukraine to any Nato enlargement will be underlined by an unusual joint visit, probably next month, by Malcolm Rifkind and Klaus Kinkel, his German opposite number. Until now Ukraine has been wary of any arrangement that could bring Nato troops to its borders. But the more Russian nationalists rail at Nato for electoral advantage, the more Ukraine understands its western neighbours' anxiety to creep under the Nato umbrella. Such an option will never be available to Kiev; but Douglas Hurd, among others, has already asked whether the country should not be linked to others on Russia's rim in some kind of security pact guaranteed by East and West. The best guarantee, as Mr Major will demonstrate, is vigorous Western backing and political support.

BLUE MOON

When a comet lights the dark of our eclipse

Britain was much darker than usual yesterday as an eclipse of the Moon blackened city streets, country meadows and car-clogged motorways. But as if to compensate, and to save the land from endless night, a sharp comet — Hyakutake — lit up the sky like some fierce, quick-burning candle. Rooftops were packed with binoculating astronomers-for-a-night, all purring with pleasure at the strange fizz in the skies; children were summoned out to watch ("Look carefully, Anna, it's something special!") and cameramen clicked photographs of a quite beautiful phenomenon.

There were no portentous mutterings or predictions of ill-fortune. Lunar eclipses are gentle happenings and have been feared far less in history than the darkness caused by the "swallowing whole of the Sun". Yet when the Sun was eclipsed across Asia last October, an awe-struck fear swept the length of the continent, touching all from peasant to panjandrum.

P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Indian Prime Minister, made sure that he left his solar-eclipsed country for the duration of the darkness, and millions more in Thailand, Burma, Cambodia, China and Laos stayed indoors to protect themselves from evil spirits. In sharp contrast, there was no report yesterday of strange behaviour at Downing Street: John Major was not seen ducking into the coal cellar for superstitious cover, and the Chancellor has not so far linked the eclipse to the referendum on a single currency.

Inevitably, Shakespeare saw eclipses differently, and wrote in *King Lear* of how eclipses in the Sun and Moon portended no good to us: "Love cools, friendship falls off, brothers divide: in cities, mutinies; in countries, discord; in palaces, treason; and the bond cracked between son and father." The Bard saw eclipses as a betrayal of the natural order — as have most people, in most places, at most times — and as a harbinger of havoc and pestilence. So did the ancient Athenians, who were so dismayed by a lunar eclipse in August, 413 BC, that they refused to set off for battle and, as a result, were roundly defeated by the less superstitious Syracusans.

The most engaging approach to the eclipse, however, has been in boys' adventure fiction. There, it has been a stock theme in closing scenes such as this one: forest-dwelling baddies (with names like Gagool and Twala) are about to chop the heroes up, or to boil them in oil, when our man says "Not so fast, you fiends, or I'll take the Sun away". Yesterday Quatermain took the Moon away. But frankly, no one minded.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Civil liberties and counter-terrorism

From Mr David Trimble, MP for Upper Bann (Ulster Unionist)

Sir, Much as I admire Simon Jenkins's writings, I fear he makes a grave error when he suggests that counter-terrorist legislation should be avoided on the grounds that it represents "a steady slither down the path of authoritarianism" ("When liberalism sleeps", April 3).

Governments cannot remain neutral on the subject of whether the lives and property of citizens are secure. To do so would undermine the very basis of their existence. Once that happens citizens will take the law into their own hands. That this has happened in Ulster (with the emergence of loyalist paramilitaries) should worry us all.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TRIMBLE,
House of Commons.
April 3.

From the Director of Liberty

Sir, I greatly welcome Simon Jenkins's article. The ill-conceived changes to the Prevention of Terrorism Act that have been rushed through Parliament will increase the numbers of innocent people stopped, searched and detained by the police.

Since the Act first came into force in 1974 over 7,000 innocent people, apparently without any good reason, have been stopped, searched or detained under its provisions. Only a tiny fraction of those detained have ever been charged with anything remotely resembling terrorism, and almost without exception these people could have been arrested under the ordinary law.

There is no real evidence that the Act's current provisions have been effective in preventing terrorism. They have already been condemned by the European Court of Human Rights for breaching those principles of human rights set out in the European Convention, and there is every reason to believe that these new powers will also be in breach and will be equally ineffective.

To prevent terrorist incidents and to convict those responsible the police need clues, leads and evidence. The police will never have sufficient resources to be able to stop and search all travelling through a particular area and the chances of those using this power just happening to come across someone carrying evidence of terrorist activities are virtually nil.

Unfortunately the powers will have a real effect in other ways. The statistical evidence for the "ring of steel" around the City of London, designed to protect the City from a terrorist attack, shows that the police have stopped and searched a disproportionate number of black people, despite the fact that to date no black people are believed to have been involved in the IRA activities in Britain.

Just one of the several powers in the Act which do not require any authorisation from anyone outside the police service will mean that anyone who chooses not to co-operate with the police can be forcibly searched, even though the police will not need any reason whatsoever for picking on that person to search. Not co-operating will also be a criminal offence, subject to a maximum sentence of six months' imprisonment.

I am not convinced that this Act will provide us with any protection. More importantly, why was it necessary to rush these powers through Parliament, thus allowing no informed debate or proper consideration?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WADHAM, Director, Liberty
(National Council for Civil Liberties),
21 Tabard Street, SE1.
April 3.

From Mr Nigel Robert Wetters

Sir, I am unconvinced by Simon Jenkins's argument against extension of police powers.

One of the main aims of most terrorist groups is the undermining of democracy. In fighting this terrorism, it is proper to take away civil liberties so long as the effect is disproportionately larger on the terrorist than on a law-abiding citizen, and so long as the loss of these liberties is less harmful than submitting to the aims of the terrorist.

It could be argued, successfully, that the powers given under the Prevention of Terrorism (Additional Powers) Bill are less important than effective policing and intelligence, but that will not convince me they are more of an infringement on the civil liberties of the general public than being bombed or shot.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL ROBERT WETTERS,
120b Replingham Road,
Southfields, SW18.
April 3.

Making the choice

From Dr Paul Lowe

Sir, If we must have a referendum on a single currency it would be opportune and equally democratic to have a concurrent referendum on capital punishment.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL LOWE,
44 Howberry Road,
Edgware, Middlesex.
April 3.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Cattle feed connection to people with 'mad cow' disease?

From Dr Alan J. Goble

Sir, The possible destruction of the British cattle industry is based upon an assumption which may well be false. It is assumed that those who have acquired the new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) did so through eating beef. I believe it more likely that they, like the cattle that developed bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or "mad cow" disease), acquired it through eating stock feed.

There appears to be little reason to suspect that eating meat could lead to transmission of a complicated protein which slowly multiplies within the brain. Human spongiform encephalopathy in the form of Kuru, which was once common in parts of New Guinea, passed through generations through eating the brains of recently deceased parents (or sometimes of enemies from the next valley).

In Australia, CJD has followed injections of human brain tissue in the form of pituitary extract into those who needed it for medical reasons; the cadavers from which the pituitaries were collected apparently included some from New Guinea.

The cattle that developed BSE in Britain and elsewhere are thought to have acquired BSE through eating sheep brains included in stock feed prepared during the 1980s. It is thought that some of these sheep were affected by spongiform encephalopathy of sheep which causes scrapie. The method of transmission of scrapie is uncertain, but could well be from other sheep accidentally ingesting brain tissue from ailing sheep which have been shot, attacked by dogs or fed to dogs in the field.

The question arises as to how young adults could now be dying from CJD. The likely explanation is that in the 1980s they ate stock feed. It is common amongst children and adolescents who live on or visit farms to examine dry stock feeds by eating them. These feeds include pollard, bran and dry mixtures and pellets containing protein. I did this often when young, as did many others whom I knew.

The addition of abattoir offal, including sheeps' craniums and their contents, to prepared cattle food is considered the most likely cause for the development of BSE. Those young people who have eaten that fodder have presumably ingested and absorbed the prion protein and in some it has lodged and multiplied in their brains, thereby producing the new strain of CJD.

If this hypothesis is correct, many thousands could have been so exposed, assuming the behaviour of young people has changed little over the past several decades. Those so far presenting with CJD may only be those who have been earliest affected and in whom the condition has advanced most rapidly, and many hundreds of cases may present over the next decade before the disease disappears.

CJD is a disaster for the sufferers and their families. Careful case studies and epidemiological review may yet prevent a possibly misguided and disastrous culling of millions of cattle which do not carry BSE and could not transmit CJD. The Government would be wise to pause and to obtain further advice.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN GOBLE
(Chairman, Board of Directors),
Heart Research Centre,
PO Box 607 Carlton South,
Victoria 3053, Australia.
April 2.

From Mr N. M. Marsden

Sir, From the early news reports of the BSE controversy I was struck, as a layman, by suggestions that a disproportionate number of those suffering from CJD were dairy farmers. Do dairy farmers eat more beef than the rest of us? I doubt it.

I have been associated with farmers for over thirty years, and I would like a pound for every time I have seen a farmer or herdsman nibbling a piece of cow cake; I have done it myself. Most concentrated cattle feed comes in the form of pellets, and one of the ingredients is molasses; they are not particularly palatable, but they can be sweet, and there is no denying that humans do eat them.

Farms also hold a fascination for children, and many visit farms at some time in their lives, often through school trips or holidays, and I would be surprised if most haven't been tempted to place these pleasant smelling pellets into their mouths, and many more into their pockets. In fact, I have seen them do it many a time.

Before going to agricultural college in the late Fifties, I worked under a head herdsman who would regularly suck a particular brand of cow cake whilst milking, extracting the molasses and spitting out the residue. I do not suggest this is a regular practice amongst herdsmen, but neither can it be unique.

If our beef and dairy herds have been infected in this way, then why not the humans who have also eaten these contaminated pellets?

Yours faithfully,
NOEL MARSDEN,
Geufron,
Llansilin, Oswestry, Shropshire.
April 2.

From Sir Jeremy Chance

Sir, Professor Michael Crawford (letter, March 26) writes:

> One might blame the farmers for accepting the principle of cannibalism by feeding ruminant brains and other organs back to ruminants. Knowing that there was scrapie in the sheep population, the risk should have been recognised.

But in the 1970s and 1980s we farmers had no idea that concentrated feeds, supplied in bulk or bags by the feeding-stuff manufacturers, contained protein from these sources. The composition of feed was declared — starch and protein equivalent, minerals, etc — but the source or composition of the protein was generally not disclosed, certainly not as animal waste products from the slaughter houses. It was assumed to be fish meal, groundnut or soya bean.

Perhaps we were naive in our ignorance. Government authorities and feeding-stuff manufacturers presumably saw no harm in feeding meat to herbivores and forcing cattle to become cannibals. But I feel sure that most farmers would not have tolerated it had they known.

They should not be blamed for the consequences.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY CHANCE,
Rhosgyll Fawr,
Chwilog, Pwllheli, Gwynedd.
March 27.

Airline 'bumping'

From Mr Malcolm Stephens

Sir, You reported (News in brief, later editions, March 29) that hundreds of passengers had been bumped from flights to America.

I am beginning to wonder if there is a conspiracy of silence to prevent anything being done about this pernicious and extraordinary practice whereby passengers can hold tickets and valid bookings with an "OK" status, having confirmed/reconfirmed their flights, turn up at the airport well before the reporting time, have paid the full price for their tickets but still be "bumped". The innocent thus pay the penalty while the guilty, ie, passengers who book and who do not turn up and airlines who knowingly overbook, having caused the problem escape scot free.

I can think of no other product or service which is ordered well in advance, paid for, delivery confirmed and then the buyer/passenger is left stranded, often quite literally.

In addition, the "contract" which an air ticket represents shows on the front a specified flight on a particular day and this "contract" is, seemingly, amended by the quite literally microscopic print on the back which changes the booking from a specified flight on a particular day into the obligation of the airline to fly the passenger to the destination on some unspecified date.

How many passengers know about this?

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM STEPHENS
(Secretary-General),
International Union of Credit
and Investment Insurers,
35 Old Queen Street, SW1.

Active elderly

From Mr Lucas Mellinger

Sir, On the basis that growing numbers of older people are active and healthy, the Director of the Carnegie Third Age Programme (letter, March 29) argues that their exclusion from the workforce is an appalling waste and a missed opportunity for our society.

Emphatically, that is not so. Without doubt, the greatest social problem today is that available manpower exceeds our requirement. Whilst most work — in offices, banks, factories, mines, or on the land — needs to be performed by fewer people than before, more people are available.

Therefore members of the third age must not only vacate the work scene of the second. With self-reliance, unhampered by any profit motif, by demands of unions, bosses or clients, they must recognise the opportunity, perhaps for the first time in their lives, to blossom according to their distinctive values and potential.

Not to do so would be — and normally is — an appalling waste of talent and a missed opportunity for our society.

Yours faithfully,
LUCAS MELLINGER,
9 Mortlake Terrace,
Kew Green, Richmond, Surrey.
April 1.

Business letters, page 29

Greenwich double

From the Chief Executive of London First

Sir, The news that future responsibility for the architectural and historical integrity of the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, is to rest with an independent trust (report, March 29; leading article, April 2) is to be welcomed. It is also appropriate that the two main tenants of the site should be the University of Greenwich, to continue the college's tradition of learning, and the National Maritime Museum, to continue its seagoing connection.

Down the road from the beautiful and historic college, a former gasworks is to become the site of the UK's national millennium exhibition — the most exciting project in London in a hundred years.

Thus Royal Greenwich, accessible, preserved and protected, and its near neighbour, a wasteland converted into a vision of the future, will together make London the hub of the world's millennium celebrations in the year 2000.

This prospect will put heart into those of us who are striving to put London at the head of the league of world cities.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN O'BRIEN,
Chief Executive, London First,
Caxton House, 6 Tothill Street, SW1.
April 2.

From Mr Charles G. Miller

Sir, In the name of making economies, the Government has severed the Royal Navy's links with the college at Greenwich, after over 300 years. At the moment, in addition to purely naval courses, tri-service defence courses for senior officers are carried out there. To claim it will be cheaper to move the training of our future service leaders from Greenwich to Camberley is tosh. Building and running costs, once local building permission has been secured, will make it considerably more expensive and the Government knows it.

The crux of this move is that real-estate values in London are far greater than the value of acreage in sylvan Surrey. The college complex is to be run by an organisation which will rent out office blocks, hire out the Painted Hall for dinners, and charge the public to view those architectural treasures which are already on view seven days a week for nothing. The whole character of the area will be changed.

This is above party politics. I can only feel shame and contempt for the insensitive, slavering-for-profit attitude of a Government with such scant feelings for our history.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES G. MILLER,
Flat D,
15 St Johns Park, Blackheath, SE3.
March 29.

Violent schoolboys

From Mr George T. Gammon

Sir, For nearly 50 years I have been proud to be an old boy of Cardiff High School. It gave me a first-class education and imparted qualities which have served me well throughout my life.

Your report today of the mindless thuggery of three sixth-formers will bring disappointment and sadness to many like me. They appear to have enjoyed so many of the privileges of life and yet to have learned nothing of the obligations which those privileges bring.

Whilst I can empathise with the distress of the families, I cannot but feel that the sentences were lenient. Your report is silent on the school's position, and I would hope for a vigorous statement from the headmaster asserting the school's priorities.

Yours truly,
GEORGE T. GAMMON,
133a High Street,
Watford, Hertfordshire.
April 2.

Spot the trendy

From the Reverend Donald Frith

Sir, I see today that, according to your correspondent, Joe Joseph, "Britain is suddenly swimming with baby-boomer mothers and fathers who hear Blur and Oasis and think Carnaby Street and Swinging London", and that they are conspicuous on the Underground in their mini-skirts, velvet hipsters and Adidas trainers.

How strange that we haven't noticed them up here. Most of the people I see are in wellies, walking boots and cagoules and have rucksacks on their backs. Few of them are listening to Walkmans; they are more likely to be enjoying the peace and quiet of the hills.

Maybe when your correspondents generalise they ought to remember what a very limited circle they actually live in, and be honest and admit that for them "Britain" really means "London".

Yours sincerely,
D. FRITH
(Chairman, The Methodist
Church in Cumbria),
14 Monnington Way,
Penrith, Cumbria.
April 1.

From Mrs Judy Astley

Sir, For the last couple of years I've had to put up with my teenage daughters claiming that they've "discovered" a great "new" band, only to hear Hendrix, T-Rex, Cream and my ancient Beatles records blasting through the house.

So if I'm now, to Joe Joseph's and everyone else's terminal embarrassment, a sad old past-her-sell-by mother singing Oasis songs in the car, perhaps it's because they are writing songs, as my own parents would have said, just like they used to.

Yours sincerely,
JUDY ASTLEY,
2 The Embankment,
Twickenham, Middlesex.
April 1.

COURT CIRCULAR

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE

April 3: The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, today received Colonel Trevor Minter on relinquishing command of the 1st Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will be present at the Maundy service in Norwich Cathedral at 11.00. The Queen will distribute the Royal Maundy during the service.

Memorial service

Mr Derek Tanner

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Derek Tanner, rugby player, was held yesterday at St Bride's, Fleet Street. Canon John Oates officiated.

Mr Bruce Tanner, grandson, read the lesson and Henry Tanner, grandson, read from Rudyard Kipling's *If*. Mr Stuart Morris, son-in-law, gave an address.

Lieutenant-Commander R.H. Hodgkinson

A memorial service to celebrate the life and work of Lieutenant-Commander Hughie Hodgkinson, DSC*, MA, RN, Headmaster of Milton Abbey School 1955-1969, will take place at Milton Abbey, on *April 27, at noon. Please contact* the Lodge at Milton Abbey School on 01258 880484 should you wish to attend.

Ann Elwell

The memorial service for Ann Elwell, OBE, will be held at St Peter's, Eaton Square, on Monday, April 15, at 11am.

The Marine Society

The 224th Annual Court of The Marine Society will be held at 11.45am on Wednesday, May 22, 1996, at The Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Lambeth, when Sir Paul Newall, TD, DL, will give the address.

Legal appointment

Mr Donald Hugh Stevenson Conway to be a full-time Immigration Adjudicator, designated as a Special Adjudicator.

Foundation for Science and Technology

Lord Butterworth, CBE, DL, was in the chair at a Foundation lecture and dinner discussion held at the Royal Society on Tuesday evening. Professor Sir Robert May introduced the evening on "Younger Scientists & Engineers. It's their Future".

Luncheon

Manchester Consular Association

The annual spring luncheon of the Manchester Consular Association was held yesterday at Manchester Town Hall. Consul General Ernst Keller of Switzerland, president, Mr David J. Fox, Consul for Chile, secretary, and Mr Brian Carroll, Consul for Liberia, treasurer, welcomed civic and business leaders.

Dinner

Makers of Playing Cards

The Common Serjeant of London and Mr Willie Rushton were the chief guests at a livery dinner of the Company of Makers of Playing Cards held last night at Cutlers' Hall. Mr R.A. Howells, Master, presided. During the evening Mr Rushton presented the company with a pack of playing cards of his own design. Mr M.H. Goodall, Senior Warden, and Mr J.G.B. Watson also spoke. The Masters of the Fanmakers', Tobacco Pipe Makers' and Wheelwrights' Companies were among the guests.

University news

Nottingham

The university has awarded honorary degrees to:

Sir Derek Jacobi, Professor Malcolm Bradbury, Sue McGregor, Delia Smith, Rabbi Julia Neuberger, Sir Harry Djanogly, Professor Sir James Holt, Dr Peter North, Professor Tom Blundell, Professor Emeritus John Mallard, Professor Keith Sir Peters, Sir Michael Angus, Sir Jim Lester, MP, Christine Bowering and Mr John Cunningham. A posthumous honour was awarded for Dr Edmund Hambly.

Queen's Counsel

The Queen has approved the appointment of six Queen's Counsel *honoris causa* and 66 new Queen's Counsel.

Queen's Counsel *honoris causa:*

Professor Carol Rhian Harlow; Professor Bob Alexander Hepple; Dr David Arthur Thomas; Michael Campbell Blair; Professor John Hamilton Baker; Michael Lawrence Saunders.

Queen's Counsel:

Roger John Ellis (G); Michael Burn Tillett (I); Miss Sonia Woodley (G); Arthur William Stevenson (L); Richard Mervyn Price (G); Stephen Oliver-Jones (I); Alan Howard Jeffreys (G); Peter Eric Kyte (G); John Joseph Coffey (M); Howard Lownds Bentham (G); Alastair Richard Malcolm (I); Patrick Charles Upward (I); Peter Christopher Rouch (G).

Nicholas Mark Lowe (G); Philip Peter Shears (M); Thomas Alun Jenkins (L); Charles Nathan Salmon (I); Robert Jervis Kay (L); Richard Henry Jones (I); Lord James Meston (M); David Paul Fisher (G); Jeffrey Vincent Pegden (I), Ian Douglas Glen (G); Andrew Hugh Munday (M); Edward Peter Lawless Faulks (M); the Hon Bernard Richard Weatherill (M); Iain Hamilton-Douglas Hughes (I); Miss Rosamund Horwood-Smart (I); Graham Eric Morrow (L); Paul Richard Garlick (M); Stephen Howard Bellamy (L); Patrick Gerard McCahill (G); Stephen Paul Stewart (M); Alan Toby Hedworth (I).

Richard Dudley Lynagh (G); Andrew James Robertson (M); Michael Harcourt Kent (M); Roger John McCarthy (G&L); Simon Robert Crookenden (G); David William Hatton (G); David John Morgan Aubrey (M); Benjamin James Browne (I); Martin John Pointer (G); Robert Frank Owen (G); Timothy Victor Holroyde (M); Francis Gary Burrell (I); William Greville Sale Massey (M); Jonathan James Acton Davis (I); Timothy Derrick Straker (G); Timothy Nicholas Young (G); Richard Spearman (M).

Martin Russell Thomson Howe (M); John Constant Shannon McBurney Brisby (L); David Stephen Brandon (G); Miss Janet Mary Turner (M); Christopher Howard Pymont (G); David Railton (G); John Peter Rowland (M); Richard Michael Sheldon (G); Philip Vincent Boulding (G); Alexander Michael Silverleaf (G); Keith John Lindblom (G); Ali Malek (G); Miss Clare Patricia Montgomery (G); Mark Steven Howard (G); Kevin John Prosser (L).

Letters in brackets indicate the Inn of Court from which each applicant was called:

M - Middle Temple; I - Inner Temple; G - Gray's Inn; L - Lincoln's Inn.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Grinling Gibbons, wood carver, Rotterdam, 1648; Sir William Siemens, inventor, Lenthe, Germany, 1823.

DEATHS: Robert III, King of Scotland 1390-1406, Dundonald Castle, Rothesay, 1406; John Napier, inventor of logarithms, Merchiston Castle, Edinburgh, 1617; Oliver Goldsmith, playwright, novelist and poet, London, 1774; John Campbell, philanthropist, co-founder of the Religious Tract Society of Scotland, London, 1840; William Henry Harrison, 9th American President March 4-April 4, 1841, Washington, 1841; Edward Dowden, critic, Dublin, 1913; Sir William Crookes, physicist, discoverer of thallium, London, 1919; Karl Benz, pioneer of the motor car, Paris, 1941; André Michelin, motor tyre manufacturer, Paris, 1941; Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan 1971-77 executed, Rawalpindi, 1979; Gloria Swanson, actress, New York, 1983.

Francis Drake was knighted by Queen Elizabeth I on board *The Golden Hind* on his return from circumnavigating the world, 1581.

Gold was discovered in the Yukon, 1896.

North Atlantic Treaty was signed in Washington by 11 nations, 1949.

Martin Luther King, Nobel Peace laureate 1964, was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, 1968.

Reception

Lord Sudeley

Lord Sudeley, a member of the Governing Council of the Manorial Society of Great Britain, was the host at a reception held last night at the House of Lords for members of the society. Mr Robert Smith, chairman, presided.

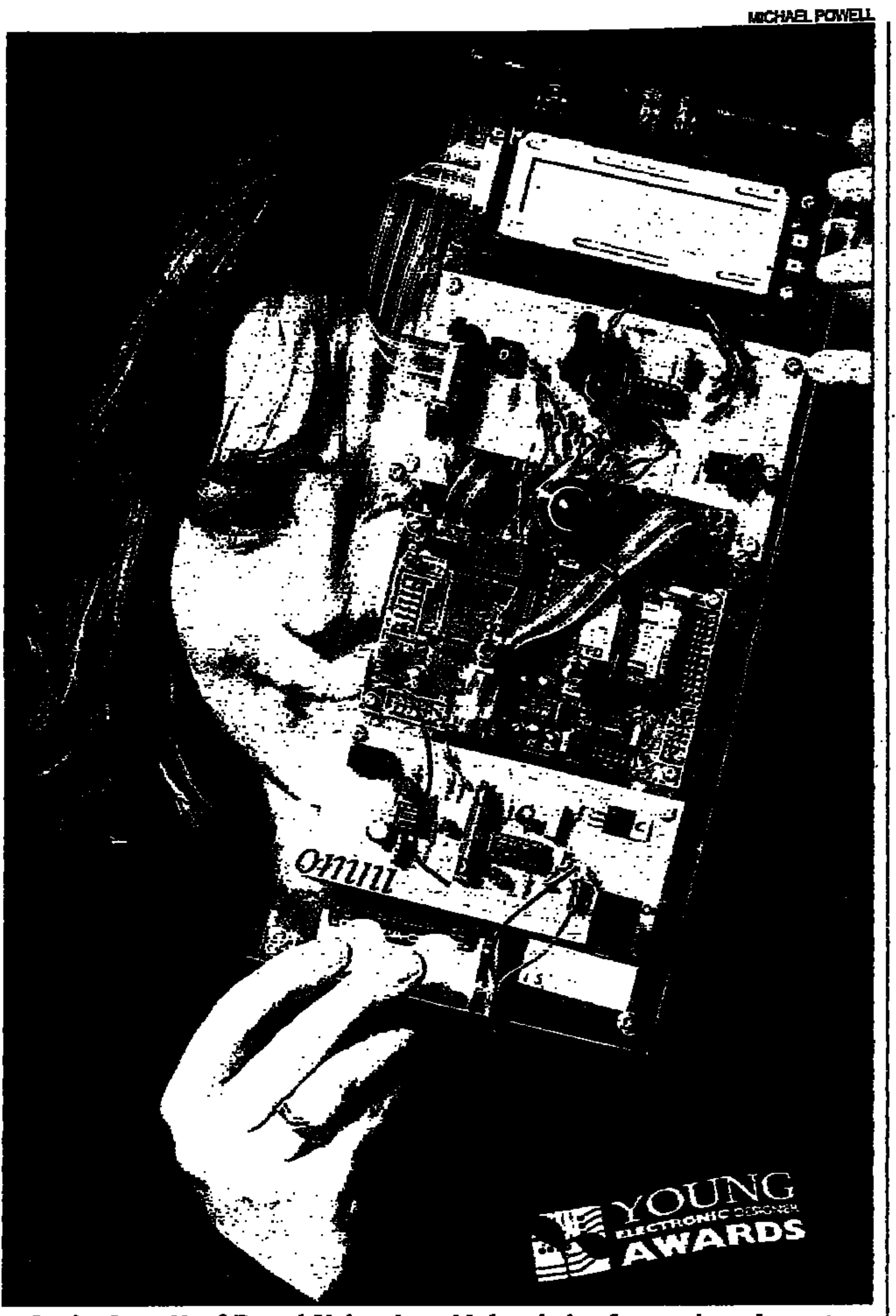
Among those present were:

The Marquess of Hertford, the Earl and Countess Temple of Stowe, the Earl of Shannon, Viscount Gormanston, Lord and Lady De Freyne, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, Sir Sydney Chapman, MP, Sir Colin Cole, Lady Grundy, Mr and Mrs R. Abbots, Mr J Brown, Mrs J H Burnett, Mr M J Burton, Miss M Corder, Mr D de Aspey, Mr N J Deva, MP, Mr and Mrs W J Dougan, Mrs E Downer, Dr and Mrs M N Eakins, Mr J Hardwick, Mrs J Harris, Mr G R Horne, Mr P Jennings, Mr Y Kawal, Mr R A Lescott, P Liddle of Gilsland, Dr P Magauran, Mr A R Maudsley, Dr M Morgan, Mr D Nicholson, MP, Mr M Orr, Mrs C Robinson, Mr R Rozario, Mr W C Rumley, Mr and Mrs H Selman, D Sharpe of Twynehame, Mr D Shaw, MP, P Sleigh of Carbury, Miss Sheena Spargo, Dr D Starkey, Mr M Stephen, MP, G D Teall of Huntly, Miss J Tokley, Mr R D Turnall-Clark, M Urquhart of Leyny and Mr K Wallis.

Birthdays today

Mr Peter Attenborough, former Headmaster, Charterhouse, 58; Sir John Beith, diplomat, 82; Mr Den Dover, MP, 58; Mrs Margaret Dupont, tennis champion, 78; Dr Chris Fay, chairman, Shell UK, 51; Brigadier Anne Field, former director, WRAC, 70; Mr J.M. Fleming, former chairman, Vauxhall Motors, 66; Mr Trevor Griffiths, playwright, 61; Lord Inchyra, 61; Earl Jellicoe, FRS, 78; Mr Gregory Knight, MP, 47; Colonel Sir Bryce Knox, former Lord-Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran, 80; Mr Richard Mansell-Jones, chairman, J. Bibby and Sons, 56; Professor David Melville, Vice-Chancellor, Middlesex University, 52; Mr Tim Newell, Governor, Grendon prison, 54; Mr Paul Parker, footballer, 32; Mr Barry Reamsbottom, general secretary, CPSA, 47; Mr Ian Robertson, director, National Army Museum, 53; Mr Dave Sexton, football manager, 66; Dame Catherine Tizard, former Governor-General of New Zealand, 65; Professor George Wedell, former director-general, European Institute for the Media, 69.

MICHAEL POWELL



Louise Jens, 22, of Brunel University, with her design for a universal remote control to operate all kinds of appliances, which won her a place as a finalist in the senior section of the Young Electronic Designer Awards at the Science Museum yesterday. The awards for the competition, which is open to students aged 12 to 25, were presented at a dinner in the museum last night

European Engineers

The following United Kingdom engineers have been awarded the qualification European Engineer by the European Federation of National Engineering Associations (FEANI) entitling them to use the letters Eur Ing as a prefix to their names:

Alderman M, Alkhaddar R, Allen D C, Archibald H R N, Asbach-Cullen D, Ash C, Ashmore A, Asim M, Badmus B, Bagnall T, Balfour L, Bannon R, Baskarad J, Belson N, Bharji K K, Bishop M, Bower R J, Brand A J, Brennan G, Brooking M, Brown A D, Brown T, Browne E, Bryce D N, Bucknall P, Bulpett M, Butland R, Butler D, Carney B M, Carter M, Carver K, Cassey M, Cavan N, Chan S T Y, Chong L Y L, Clark P F, Clee J P, Collins D, Conway A, Cowling P, Cox A, Crosby G, Cullum R P.

Daw S, Dixon M, Donovan M, Doran N, Downton G, Drummond C, Dudman P, Edmondson D A B, Eppel H, Evatt M, Eves R, Eyre M, Fox M, Garden W, Gatt C A, Gibbs M J E, Goodenough G, Gray A, Greenhalgh R J S, Greenwood D J, Hall I A, Harding G, Hardy F G, Hart D, Hay J, Hayes S, Ho K K S, Hogg P, Holmes R, Horswill M, Hudson M, Hughes C, Hughes D, Hunter M.

Ives M, John J, Johnson J, Joiner G, Jones C E, Jones R E, Jones S, Jorgensen E, Karpathakis A, Kerslake J, Kitson R M, Kotecha S G, Lai E, Lake L, Lau P K, Lee G D, Linkens T, Lockett R, Luckhurst K, Marriott K J, McCormick J, McKenna S, McLoughlin D M, Meaden I, Metcalfe H D, Moorfield R, Moorin R, Morgan C G, Munson K, Nelson P, Nichols P.

O'Sullivan D, Oliver G, Palejwala A, Pannell J B, Parker A, Parkinson K W, Payne D R, Phillips David, Phillips Douglas, Pike G N, Ponticelli P, Porazinski R, Price W, Proud J D, Pye M A, Pywell P, Rabson J, Rawlings M, Rayner R, Rhodes J W, Richardson G, Riding C, Riha J, Roberts Y, Rowe T G, Ryder P.

Sandom C W, Saunders C, Seldon J, Shirtcliff S, Shokrizadeh B, Stute R A, Simpson E, Simpson R M, Slender P J, Smalley D, Smith A, Smith C, Smith David, Smith Donald, Smith Simon Jonathan, Smith Stephen, Somerset R J, Spinelli L, Stacey L, Storer D, Sutton J, Taylor S, Teather F, Thompson M, Tinson I, Tonks D, Townsend R, Tucker D, Watson G, Webster S J, Wernham B, Westley T P, Wheatley D, White G J, Whitehouse M, Williams T, Wojtak K, Wong C K, Wong Y K, Woolford P, Wotton P, Zani J.

Forthcoming marriages

Lieutenant Commander J.M.F. Bilson, RN, and Miss M.E. Leighton

The engagement is announced between John, only son of the late Mr Bill Bilson and Mrs Monica Bilson, of Bracknell, Berkshire, and Megan, only daughter of Mr Bernard Leighton and Mrs Marie Leighton, of Wilmington, North Carolina, USA.

Mr R.J.H.McL. Corrie and Miss N.J. Lascelles

The engagement is announced between Roderick, son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Corrie, of Wineham, West Sussex, and Nicola, daughter of Commander and Mrs Oliver Lascelles, of Hinton Waldrist, Oxfordshire.

Mr C.J. Dolbey and Miss A.M.K. Fabian

The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Captain and Mrs Robert Dolbey, of Easton, Suffolk, and Anouchka, daughter of Mr and Mrs Fabian-Akehurst.

Mr L.S. Hellewell and Miss S.V. Laxton

Mr and Mrs John F. Laxton, of The Old Barn, Addingham are pleased to announce the engagement of their younger daughter Susan Victoria, to Lyndon Stuart, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter J. Hellewell, of Woodhall, Pudsey.

Mr J.I.H. Macdonald-Buchanan and Miss J. Crossley

The engagement is announced between James Iain Harry, second son of Mr A.J. Macdonald-Buchanan, of Hawkslaw, Coldstream, and Mrs E. Macdonald-Buchanan, of Inveran, Poolewe, Ross-shire, and Julia, younger daughter of the late Mr Anthony Crossley and of Mrs Gillian Crossley, of Milima, Gympie, Queensland.

Mr S.J. Paine and Miss C.H. Denison

The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Dr and Mrs Robert Paine, of Yealand Conyers, Lancashire, and Claire, younger daughter of Mr George Denison and the late Mrs Jessie Denison, of Langham, Rutland.

Mr T.P.C. Raven and Miss G.C. Miller

The engagement is announced between Timothy, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter Raven, of Pound Ridge, New York, and Lismore, Co Waterford, and Gabrielle, elder daughter of Mr Harvey Miller, of Tenafly, New Jersey, and Mrs Joan Miller, of Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania. The marriage will take place in Woodstock, NY, in September.

Mr W.J. Staunton and Miss S.J. Ibbotson

The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and Mrs Edmund Staunton, of Staunton, Nottinghamshire, and Suzanne, daughter of Dr and Mrs Gerald Ibbotson, of Bamford, Rochdale, Lancashire.

Mr J.J. Williams and Miss K.M.M. Leach

The engagement is announced between Jeremy, elder son of Colonel and Mrs F.J.K. Williams, of The Wirral, Cheshire, and Katharine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Leach, of Kew Gardens, Surrey.

Marriage

Lieutenant J.P. Kyd, RN, and Dr K.L. Mead

The marriage took place on Saturday, March 30, at St Luke's Church, Grayshott, of Lieutenant Jeremy Kyd, RN, and Dr Karen Mead. The Rev Bill Meyer officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Dr Anna Mead, Dr Anjana Murugason and Miss Amanda Powell. Dr Robert Fraser was best man.

A reception was held at the Tithe Barn, Loseley House, and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Latest wills

Maud Elkington, of Kettering, Northamptonshire, formerly of Desborough, left estate valued at £5,554,756 net.

She left £1,000 to her gardener and handyman, William S Coe, £5,000 each to the Cancer Research Campaign, Empire Rheumatism Council and British Heart Foundation, £1,000 to Desborough Congregational Church, and the residue to charitable trust.

Church services today

Maundy Thursday

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 7.15 MP; 7.30, 1.10 HC; 10.30 Choral Euch & Blessing of Oils, Kelly in C, Ubi caritas (Duruflé). The Bishop; 7.30 Choral Euch of Maundy & Vigil, Blair in G, Miserere (Allegri), Una hora (Victoria).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: College Green: 10.30 Blessing of the Oils; 7.30 Choral Euch (Rite B).

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 11 Euch, Blessing of Oils & Renewal of Ordination, Vows, The Bishop; 3.30 The Thursday Candle; 5.30 E; 7.30 S Euch & Stripping of Altar, Canterbury Mass (Moore), O vos omnes (Victoria), Tenebrae factae sunt (Victoria).

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 11 Euch & Renewal of Vows & Blessing of Oils, The Bishop; 7.30 S Euch & Washing of Feet, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Ubi caritas (Duruflé).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 8.10 HC; 12 Euch & Blessing of Oils & Renewal of Ordination Promises, The Bishop; 5.15 EP; 7.45 S Euch of the Last Supper, Washing of Feet & Watch, Ubi caritas (Duruflé), Gloria (Jackson), Messe Basse (Fauré), If ye love me (Tallis), Christu factus est (Bruckner). The Dean.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 M; 5.30 E; 6 S Euch, Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), Ave verum (Byrd). Fr A Mayoss.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.30 Liturgy; 10.30 Euch of the Blessing of the Oils & Renewal of Ministerial Vows, The Bishop; 12.40 Midday Prayer; 1 Communion; 1.10 Roman Catholic Mass; 5 EP; 7.30 Maundy Euch, Deus genitor, A new commandment (Wright), Wash me throughly (Wesley), Christu factus est (Bruckner), Rev D Urquhart, followed by Vigil until Good Friday.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 7.30 HC, Canon D Hodgson; 9 MP; 11 HC with Blessing of Oils, The Bishop; 12.30 Prayers for peace and justice; 5.15 EP; 7.30 HC, Missa brevis (Walton), Ubi caritas (Duruflé), Drop drop slow tears (Walton), Canon S Pedley.

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 5.30 EP; 8 S Euch & Stripping of the altar, Missa brevis (Palestrina).

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 HC; 11 Euch & Blessing of Oils; 5.30 EP; 7.30 Maundy Euch, Laudes, From heaven you came (Kendrick), My song is love unknown (Archer).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 11.30 S Euch & Blessing of Oils, A Communion Service (Rutter), The Bishop; 5.15 E, Short Service (Ayleward), It is a thing most wonderful (Ireland); 7.30 S Euch & Stripping of the altar, Mass for three voices (Byrd).

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Diocesan Euch and Blessing of Oils; 7.30 Euch of the Lord's Supper.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 6.50, 7.30, 9.15 H Euch; 7.30 Yr Offeren; 11 Solemn Euch & Blessing of Oils; 6 E, Short Service (Tallis), Tristis est anima mea (Lassus); 7.30 S Euch of the Lord's Supper, Washing of Feet, Procession to the Altar of Repose & Stripping of the Altar, Rev M Davies, followed by The Watch of the Passion.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 11 Blessing of Oils; 7.30 Liturgy of the Lord's Supper, Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina); Ave verum corpus (Penalosa), Stripping of the altars, Bishop K Gill.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch with Blessing of Oils; 7 S Euch with Stripping of Altar, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Ave verum corpus (Byrd).

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch & Renewal of Ordination, Missa brevis in D minor (Mozart), Blessed are those servants (Moeran); 5.30 E; 8 Euch followed by Watch of the Passion until Midnight, Mass of the Quiet Hour (Oldroyd), Ubi caritas (Duruflé), Canon E Buchanan.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 7.30 Worship with HC; 11 Euch of Chrism & Reaffirmation of Vows, Mass of St Thomas (Thorne), Right Rev D Stancliffe; 5.30 E, Fauxbourdons (Byrd), O saviour of the world (Ouseley); 7.30 Euch of the Lord's Supper, Washing of Feet, Watch of the Passion, Very Rev H Dickinson Ubi caritas (Duruflé), If ye love me (Tallis), Ave verum corpus (Byrd). Rev Dr J Cullen.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 Euch; 11 Euch and Blessing of Oils, The Bishop; 1 Euch; 5.45 EP; 7.30 Liturgy of the Last Supper and Watch of the Passion, O vos Omnes (Casals), Canon C Smith.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30, 9.45 HC; 8 MP; 11 Euch, Renewal of Ministerial Vows & Blessing of Oils, Canon L Morley; 5.45 E, The Short Service (Weelkes), Verily verily I say unto you (Tallis); 8 Euch & Washing of the Feet, Sumsion in F, God so loved the world (Stainer), Sister Monica.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 12 Diocesan Chrism Euch; 5.30 EP & Intercessions; 7 Solemn S Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), Ave verum corpus (Byrd); 8 Watch of the Passion until midnight.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Chrism Euch, Missa Brevis (Britten), O mysterium ineffabile (Lallouette), The Bishop; 7.30 Solemn Euch, Darke in F, Ubi caritas & Tantum ergo (Duruflé), The Provost.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 7.30 M; 8, 12.30 HC; 4.30 E; 5 Euch, Missa Brevis (Walton), A new commandment (Wright), Ubi caritas (Duruflé), Tantum ergo (Duruflé).

YORK MINSTER: 7.30 M; 7.50, 11.30 HC; 12 Procession of Pilgrimage; 5 E, Doveton in D minor, Lamentations, Part II (Tallis); 7.30 S Euch & Stripping of Altars, Darke in F, Ubi caritas (Duruflé), Christus factus est (Bruckner).

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 11 Choral Euch & Blessing of Holy Oil, Darke in F, Salvator Mundi (Tallis); 7 Choral Euch & Stripping of Altar, Mass at the Quiet Hour (Oldroyd), They part my garments among them (Antiphon).

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 6 EP; 7.30 Choral Euch & Stripping of Altar, Sumsion in F, Ave verum (Mozart).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8.30 Office of Readings; 11.15 Chrism Mass, Archbishop & clergy of the Diocese, and Confirmandi; 7.30 Mass of the Lord's Supper.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 HC; 12 Daily Service; 8 Evening with readings, prayers, anthems & sermon. The Minister.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 7.30 M; 8, 12.30 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Blessing of Oils & Renewal of Ordination Vows, A New People's Mass (Murray), The Bishop; 4 E; 5 S Euch, Missa Pange lingua (Josquin), O sacrum convivium (Tallis), Ubi caritas (Duruflé), The Bishop; 6.15-7.30 The Watch of the Passion.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 9 MP; 6 EP; 6.30 High Mass of the Lord's Supper, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Rev P Johnstone.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 6.30 Missa l'hora passa (Viadana), Christus factus est (Bruckner), In the departure of the Lord (Bull).

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 1.10-1.30, Rev S Hood.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 8-9 Maundy Thursday HC, Rev S Downham.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 6.45 Maundy Thursday HC, Rev Dr R Gibbins.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 6.30 Seder, Lord's Supper & Stripping of Altar.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 7.30 pm Commemoration of the Last Supper, Gloria, Messe Cum Jubilo (Duruflé), The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 8.30 HC in the Crypt; 1.15 Choral Euch and Stripping of Altar, Darke in E.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 8 HC.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 6 S Mass, Mass for five Voices (Byrd), Ubi caritas (Duruflé), O Sacrum Convivium (D'Evry), Pange Lingua (Palestrina).

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly, W1: 8.30 HC; 7 Euch and the Stripping of the Altars & Vigil until 10pm.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8.15 Missa L'Hora Passa (Viadana), A Litany (Walton).

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 6.30 Euch of the Last Supper & Vigil with music.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 Celebrations of the Lord's Last Supper, O Mysterium ineffabile (Lallouette), Ubi caritas (Plainchant), Rev R McLaren.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 6.30 Maundy Thursday, Missa In te Domine Speravi (Lassus), Christus factus est pro nobis (Bruckner), Fr W Keyes.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8 Mass of the Last Supper, Pastoralmesse KV 140 (Mozart).

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 7 HC, Euge bone (Tye), O sacrum convivium (Tallis), Canon J Murphy.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 7.30pm Choral Euch, I give you a new commandment (Shepherd), Mass for three voices (Byrd), Vocem meum audisti (Ferrabosco I).

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 1.10 HC.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 12 Choral HC, Verily I saw unto you (Tallis), Wood in C minor (Mass), Ave verum (Mozart), Rev J Gough.

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The Son of Man is going the way appointed for him in the scriptures; but alas for that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed.
Mark 14 : 21 (REB)

BIRTHS

ALMURAIKHI - On March 28th 1996 at The Portland Hospital, to Khaledah Almulla and Khaled Almuraikhi, their first born daughter, Sarah.

BANKS - On March 28th at The Portland Hospital, to Alan and Louise (née Stern), a beautiful daughter, Yasmin Merryday, a sister for Anouska.

BOWMAN - On 8th March 1996, to Virginia (née Burrows) and Henry, a daughter, Polly, now home.

DAVEY - On 29th March at The Portland Hospital, to Lindsay and Ted, a son, Hugo, a brother for Oliver and Fergus.

DAVIES - On April 2nd in London, to Linda (née Wong) and David, a daughter.

EDWARD - On March 28th, to David and Melanie in Los Angeles, a daughter Rachel Elizabeth Louise.

BIRTHS

FIETH - On 28th March 1996, to Fiona (née MacGregor) and Robin, a daughter, Alice Mary Roddick, a sister for Jessica.

HARRIS - On March 30th 1996 in Bath, to Diana (née Jonas) and Steven, a son, Jack Lawrence.

HUGHES - On 28th March at The Portland Hospital, to Helen and Michael, a beautiful boy, Oliver Mark Henry, a brother for Benedict.

JASON FOSTER - On April 1st at The Portland Hospital, to Elli and Michael, a beautiful daughter, Millie, a sister for Theadora and Rusja.

LABOVITCH - On April 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Katharina and Mark, a son, Frederick Joseph Clive.

LENNON - On March 22nd, to Caroline and Stephen, a daughter, Kate Annie, a sister for Faye, George and Grace.

LOVEGROVE-FIELDEN - On March 27th to Karen and Jonathan, a son, Brooke, 6 weeks early. Father and son now both at home and being looked after by Rowan and Jos.

THE TIMES

BIRTH AND DEATH NOTICES

To place your Birth or Death Notices over the Easter Holiday period please call during the following times.

Thursday 4th April 9.00am - 12.00 noon
Friday 5th April 9.30am - 2.30pm
Saturday 6th April 9.00am - 12.00pm
Monday 8th April 9.30am - 2.30pm
Tel: 0171 680 6880. Fax: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS

NOBLE - To Lucy and Domonic, a son, Oliver Henry.

PEAL - On March 27th, to Elen and Andrew, a son, Alexander Owen.

PRITCHARD - On 28th March 1996, to Janice (née Sansby) and William, a daughter, Emily Charlotte.

SHAW - David and Sharon are delighted to announce the birth of a daughter, Emma Catherine, on 1st April, 1996 at the Matilda Hospital, Hong Kong.

SMITH - On 1st April 1996, to Sophie (née Hernu) and Hugo, a son, Milo, a brother for Arabella.

WOOLLATT - See Noble.

DEATHS

ALEXANDER - On 27th March 1996, aged 85, Isabel Mary Alexander: painter, naturalist, mother and grandmother. Memorial at the Friends' Meeting House, Queen's Road, Ilkley, at 3 pm on Tuesday 9th April. Donations, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Arden Lea, Queen's Drive, Ilkley LS29 9QR.

BALL-GREENE - Judith Craig, on April 2nd, peacefully after a short illness. Wife of the late Brian, beloved mother of Sarah, Fiona, Rachel and Rupert, stepmother of Virginia, much loved grandmother and stepgrandmother. Funeral private. Family flowers only. Service of Thanksgiving at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Hambleden, 3.30 pm, Thursday April 11th. Donations if desired to The Thames Valley Hospice, Pine Lodge, Hatch Lane, Windsor, Berks, SL4 3RW.

DEATHS

BARCLAY - Jean Cecil (née Gladstone). On April 3rd 1996, aged 94, peacefully in hospital. Beloved wife of Roddie, mother of Gillie, Susan, Davina and Joe, fourteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Service Latimer Parish Church 3 pm Wednesday April 10th. No flowers, donations if desired payable to Latimer P.C.C. c/o Stuart Price Funeral Service, 13 Hill Avenue, Amersham, Bucks, HP6 5BD, tel: (01494) 434494.

BRIERLEY - Betty, formerly Henderson, née Collis. On March 29th, peacefully aged 85. Loving Mother of Diana, Grandmother of Nicolas, Duncan, Michael and Justin. Funeral private. Memorial service in May, to be announced later. Donations for Morville Group of Churches. Enquiries to Perry and Phillips Funeral Directors, tel: (01746) 765255.

COVERDALE - On 29th March 1996 Elizabeth (Betty) aged 88, peacefully after a short illness, beloved wife of Philip, treasured mother of John, Clare, Philippa and Frances and all her thirteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Requiem Mass and Thanksgiving on Tuesday 9th April at 11 am at St Thomas of Canterbury and The English Martyrs, Melbourn Road, Royston, Herts., followed by a family burial at Fryerning, Essex. Family flowers only, but donations in her memory, if desired, to CAFOD, London SW9 9TY. R.I.P.

DEATHS

CLARKE - Winfrid Kenneth (Tubby) Clarke peacefully on 29th March 1996, beloved husband of Nancy. Cremation at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, Surrey, at 12.30 pm on 9th April. Family flowers only please to J.H. Kenyon, 49 Marloes Road, London W8. Donations to Royal Hospital for Neuro Disability, West Hill, Putney, London SW15 3SW.

DYAS - Jeanne aged 75, who died suddenly but peacefully on 1st April, much loved wife of Douglas. She will be sadly missed by her three children and six grandchildren. The funeral will take place on Friday 12th April at 2.30 pm at Enfield Crematorium. Any donations to ITU Amenity Fund at Whipps Cross Hospital, London E11 1NR.

ELMER - Thomas Anthony Richard, suddenly in King's College Hospital (ICU) after an accident. Much loved and greatly missed by wife June and children John and Sarah-Jane. All enquiries please to Francis Chappell & Sons, (0181) 778-6658.

FOOT - On 30th March, Mavis (Bunty) passed away to be with Christ. Funeral Service on Wednesday, 10th April at 2 pm at St James' Church, Tunbridge Wells, followed by interment in St Peter's Upper Cemetery, Pembury. No flowers, but donations to R.S.P.B. c/o E.R. Hicknott & Son, 41, Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1SD.

DEATHS

GUEST-BLOFELD - (formerly Sarjent) Margaret Gwen, beloved wife of Tim, loving mother of David and Anne-Marie. Peacefully at St Michael Sobell House, Oxford, on 29th March. Funeral All Saints Church, Peppard, nr. Henley-on-Thames, at 2 pm on Saturday 13th April. Family flowers. Donations, if desired, to Cancer Research.

HAIR - Barbara, daughter of the late Gilbert and Lucy Hair and sister of John, on 2nd April 1996. R.I.P. Private funeral. No letters or flowers please, but donations in lieu, to Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

HARGADON - James died on Saturday 30th March 1996. A Requiem Mass at St Vincent de Pauls Catholic Church, Southgate Road, Potters Bar, on Thursday 11th April 1996 at 10 am. Any donations to the British Diabetic Association.

HEADINGTON - On March 19th 1996, tragically whilst skiing in France, Christopher John Magenis Headington LRAM, ARCM, ARAM, B.Mus. aged 65 years of Kingsteignton, Devon. Beloved Cousin and dear friend. Funeral Service Monday, April 15th, 12.30pm Torquay Crematorium. A Memorial Service will be held at St Andrew's Church, Old Headington, Oxford on May 22nd, at 1.30pm. Family flowers only, but if desired donations to The Musicians Benevolent Fund c/o T. Clark Funeral Directors, 48 Teign Street, Teignmouth TQ14 8EA.

JANSON - Guy Janson MBE of Southover on 20th March 1996 aged 92. Service of Thanksgiving on Friday 12th July at Southover Church at 2.30 pm.

DEATHS

LLOYD - Naomi (née Bancroft) died peacefully on April 2nd 1996. Wife of the late His Hon. Ifor Lloyd Q.C. Much loved mother of Caroline and David and devoted grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service on Wednesday April 10th at the Temple Church, London EC4 at 11 am, followed by private cremation at Golders Green Crematorium. Flowers may be sent to A. France & Son, 45 Lamb's Conduit Street, London WC1.

MILLAR - Charles M.H. Suddenly but peacefully at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Edinburgh, on March 31st, in his 90th year. Charles Michael Hepburn Millar, formerly Head of Classics at Glenalmond College and a much loved uncle. A service will be held in the Cloister Chapel at Warriston Crematorium Edinburgh on Thursday 11th April at 3.15pm to which all friends are invited.

OFFIN - Ronald Bernard, on 31st March, aged 77 years. Dearly loved. Funeral Service on Wednesday April 10th 12.30 pm at St Matthew's Church, Sinclair Road, London W14. No flowers please, donations in memoriam, if desired, to St Matthew's P.C.C. (for church organ restoration fund) c/o The Vicarage, 1 Fielding Road, London W14.

TULI - Prakash Khaul, passed away peacefully aged 90. Loved by her family.

DEATHS

TURNER - On 2nd April, peacefully at her home after a long illness bravely borne, Margaret (Peggy) of Hereford aged 78 years. Dearly loved Wife of Kenneth, greatly loved Mother of Meredith and Louise and Grandmother of six. The funeral service will be held at Hereford Cathedral Lady Chapel on Thursday, 11th April, at 1.15 pm, followed by private cremation. Donations if desired for St Michael's Hospice may be sent to Dawe Bros., 115 Westfaling Street, Hereford.

WETTERN - Margaret, on 1st April 1996, peacefully in hospital at the end of a long illness. Dearly loved Wife, Mother and Grandmother. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service on Monday 15th April at St Mary's Church, Ide Hill, Kent at 2.30 pm. No flowers, but donations to Hospice-in-the-Weald, c/o R. Medhurst, Vine House, Hartfield, Sussex TN7 4AD.

WINDEYER - Elspeth Anne peacefully at home in Oxford on 3rd April. Adored mother, grandmother, sister, cousin and friend. Service at Oxford Crematorium on 9th April at 1 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to The Meyerstein Institute Middlesex Hospital, London W1.

WYPER - Hazel (née Fordham) on 29th March at Lenham. Cremation at Charing on Tuesday 16th April at noon.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

WELHAM - A Service for John will be held on 13th April at 11 am at St James the Less, London Road, Hadleigh. All friends and associates welcome.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

JENISON - Alan BA(Hons) Durham died 14th November 1991. Special memories on his birthday. Ada.

LANGDON - In loving memory of Anne Barron (née Wilson), who died 4th April 1994, rarely from our thoughts.

McINTOSH WHYTE - Joan Mary - In loving memory of my very dear aunt who died in Malaga, Spain April 4th 1995. At peace.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

GREENACRE - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Lady Elizabeth Greenacre will be held at St Andrew's Church, Ham Common, on Thursday 18th April at 3 pm.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITIES ACT 1993
Public Notice for the Expenditure of Capital under Section 75
The Royal College of Music
Charity Reference 309268
Declaration
The Council of the Royal College of Music

being the Trustees of a number of subsidiary charities of the said charity, each having a total income of less than £1000 per annum, hereby give notice that they have passed a Resolution under the above provisions authorising the expenditure of the charities capital as income. A list of the charities may be inspected at the College or obtained by writing to

The Bursar (reference MW), The Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BS.

Any interested person wishing to make representations regarding the said Resolution may do so, quoting the Charity reference number at the head of this notice, within a period of six weeks from the date of this notice, by writing to the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales at: St Alban's House 57/60 Haymarket London SW1Y 4QX.

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TICKETS FOR SALE

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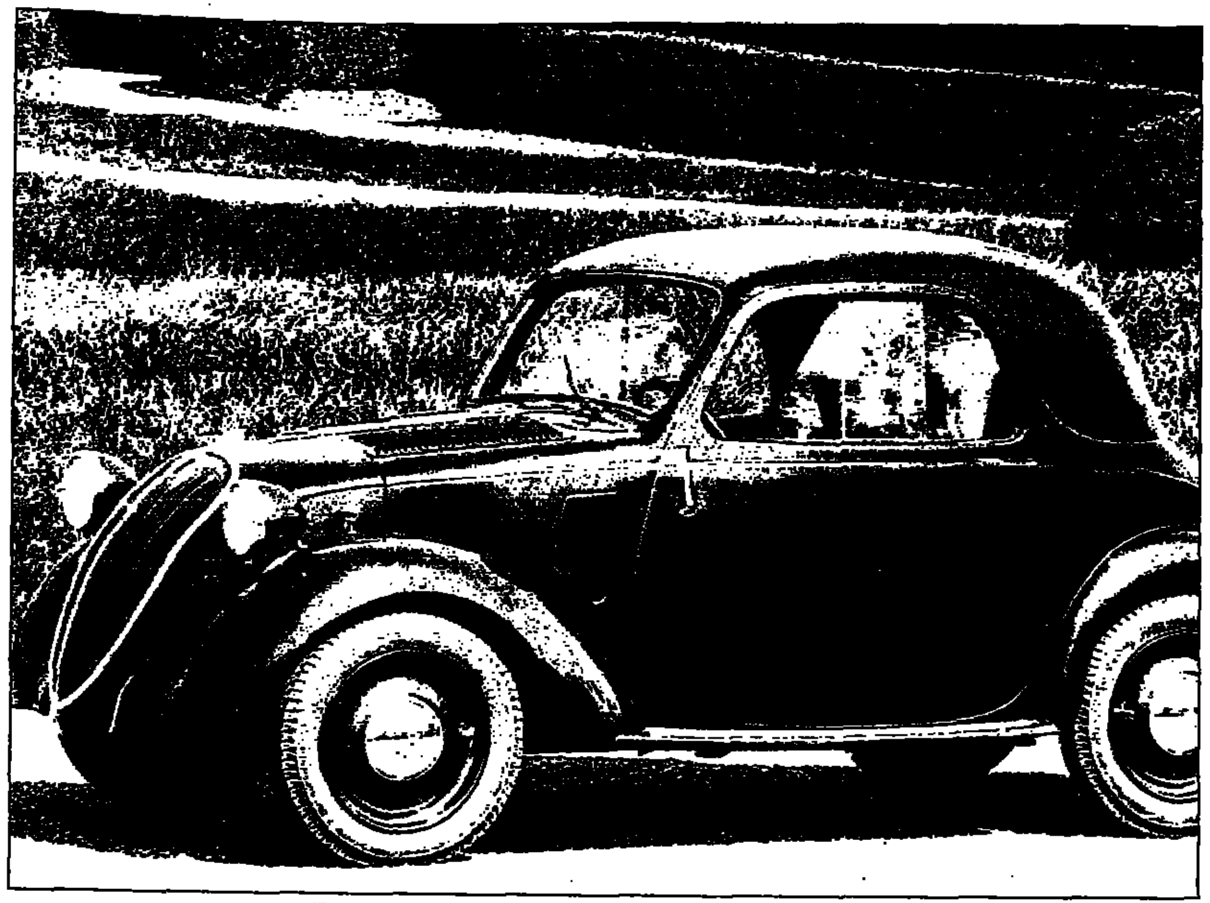
OBITUARIES

DANTE GIACOSA

Dante Giacosa, Italian car designer, died in Turin on March 31 aged 91. He was born in Rome on January 3, 1905.



Dante Giacosa, left, and the original Fiat 500 of 1936

KNOWN almost from its inception as "Topolino" (little mouse), Dante Giacosa's Fiat 500 was to go through many metamorphoses. It became the world's most successful car in the very small car category, in the forty years following its first appearance on the roads of Italy in 1936. More than four million of these diminutive vehicles were made before the marque was taken out of production in 1975.

Indeed the Topolino seemed almost to become part of the Italian psyche with its ability to negotiate the streets of the country's medieval cities in a manner denied to larger and more macho automobiles — a highly important point, this, in a nation whose young men are not given to walking, especially when escorting the fair sex. Thus, in the narrow, cobbled streets of hundreds of towns and villages between Turin in Piedmont and Trapani in western Sicily, the Fiat 500 had an unassailable position as the urban runabout, able to dash nimbly from café to nightclub with its muted, puttering engine, without much incommoding or irritating pedestrians.

The original car was not strictly speaking a 500, since its engine was in fact 569cc. But it set new standards for small cars in the interwar years, with its four-speed synchromesh gearbox and its impressive hydraulic braking system. It was also remarkably good value, costing the equivalent of less than £100 in Italy in the mid-1930s. It was a similar price in France where it was assembled as the Simca Cinq, while in Britain at that time its price was £120. The NSU firm of Germany also offered Fiats for sale, in its own body shells.

Although born in Rome, Dante Giacosa came of a Piedmontese family, and after attending schools in Alba in the northwest of Italy he studied mechanical engineering at Turin Polytechnic where he graduated in 1927. After military service in the artillery, in 1928 he answered an advertisement in the Turin paper *La Stampa* and joined the design office of Fiat, where he was initially employed on the development of armoured fighting vehicles for the Italian Army, notably the Pavese tank. Later he was also engaged in the design of aero engines for the Italian Air Force.

But from 1933 he was involved in the quest to produce a vehicle just over three metres in length, into which two adults and two children could be crammed. It is part of the Fiat mythology that Giacosa presented his water-cooled Zero A design to Giovanni Agnelli, the founder and head of Fiat, alongside a competing air-cooled model created by a rival designer. It was Giacosa's great good fortune that the air-cooled vehicle caught fire after a few miles, clearing the way for the future Topolino.

Agnelli had originally stipulated in 1933 that the Fiat should sell for 5,000 lire (the exchange rate for the lira against sterling in those days bore no relation to the astronomical figures we are accustomed to today). When the Fiat Zero A, later re-baptised Fiat 500, came out three years later, it retailed for 8,900 lire, a considerable overshoot of Giacosa's original brief, but still a price which put it within the reach of ordinary people. "I sat myself down to designing with the thought: every worker should have a car. And I designed one that everyone could afford," Giacosa was subsequently to say.

By the time the model was taken out of production it had become something of a cult object, and was collected and honoured by fan clubs around the world. Its creator expressed regret at Fiat's decision to discontinue production, insisting that the model could have been kept alive with relatively minor alterations intended to make it wider and more spacious. A few years ago Fiat presented Giacosa with one of his early 500 models, lovingly restored.

Giacosa followed up the success of the 500 with a range of other models. These tended to become larger and more comfortable as the motoring public became more demanding. The mass August migration of Italians to the seaside was made possible by Giacosa's Fiat 600, the first Italian four-seater with a rear-mounted engine. The designer came up with the shape by creating a life-size plaster model, which he moulded and then chipped away at patiently with a chisel to remove all that was superfluous.

The 600 was followed by the Campagnola, and then by the ubiquitous 127, a very popular model which spawned Yugoslav and Bulgarian versions. The 128 was somewhat larger, roughly analogous to the Ford Escort, and featured front-wheel drive. The 124 was larger again, a full-size family saloon. It was manufactured in the Soviet Union as the Lada and, ironically, re-imported to Britain at a highly competitive discounted price, it became more popular in its Soviet reincarnation than the original Fiat model had been.

Giacosa was also responsible for the small front-wheel drive Autobianchi Primula, the A111 and the A112. His bent was always for the mass-market utility vehicle, but he also dabbled in racing car design, coming up, notably, with the single-seater Cisitalia racer.

A tall, distinguished-looking man, Giacosa disapproved of many of the fripperies, gadgets and buttons that fill the modern motorcar, shaking his head and commenting as he toured the showrooms: "You can get lost in them." Perhaps surprisingly, given the state-of-the-art modernity of Fiat's design and production processes, he was also no great admirer of the computer, complaining that it restricted creativity. "It is only capable of rapidly verifying the results, not of anticipating them," was always his complaint against those who placed too great a trust in such new technology.

Giacosa retired from Fiat in 1975, but continued to be associated with the car industry at various levels. In Italy he was president of ATA (Associazione Tecnica dell'Automobile), 1965-84, and from 1967 to 1969 he was president of the Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Ingenieurs des Techniques de l'Automobile. He published numerous papers and was the author of an autobiography, *My Forty Years of Designing for Fiat*.

He is survived by his wife Laura and by a daughter.

BRIGADIER ALASTAIR PEARSON

Brigadier Alastair Pearson, CB, DSO and three Bars, OBE, MC, TD, former Lord Lieutenant of Dunbartonshire, died on March 29 aged 80. He was born on June 1, 1915.

ALASTAIR PEARSON'S five decorations for gallantry earned him a place in the *Guinness Book of Records* and a *This is Your Life* television programme with Eamonn Andrews. His MC and first two DSOs came in North Africa, where he took over the command of the 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment, aged only 27, when its colonel was badly wounded. He won his third DSO fighting in Sicily.

The young American Dakota pilot who was to drop Pearson over Sicily lost his nerve amid the flak and wanted to turn back. But Pearson drew his revolver and ordered him to fly on, before parachuting from a near-suicidal 200 ft onto the slopes of Mount Etna — permanently damaging his knees. This injury, together with malaria and asthma, prompted the Army to withdraw him from the front line. But General Sir Richard "Windy" Gale got him back to lead the Paras' 8th Battalion in Normandy, where Pearson was to win his fourth DSO.

One night in Normandy he rescued troops from a crashed plane, hauling out the injured men onto a farm cart before placing himself, like an ox, between the shafts and dragging them to safety — while he sang *Roll Out the Barrel*, a signal to his own men near by to hold their fire.

Yet, despite his charismatic leadership, he was never a regular soldier. Born Alastair Stevenson Pearson, the son of a Glasgow grain merchant, he went from Kelvinside Academy to Sedbergh School where he achieved little academically, but distinguished himself in the rugby first XV.

Pearson left school during the Depression when few jobs were available, so joined his uncle at Pearson's Bakery in Glasgow, eventually becoming a director. At the same time he enlisted in the Highland Light Infantry as a Territorial.

Despite twice being sent to France in 1940, Pearson spent much of the early part of the war in Glasgow. It was his search for a more active role which led to his transferring to The Parachute Regiment. His first jump at a press demonstration was immortalised in *Picture Post*.

In 1944 he married Mrs Joan Weld-Smith, a cousin of the actor David Niven and the widow, with two young daughters, of a fighter pilot. Their wedding was arranged for just after D-Day but security was so strict that Pearson could not warn her in advance that it would have to be postponed. It was only when she saw the planes flying over that she realised that her groom could not turn up. They made it three months later while he was on leave from France.

Turning down a regular commission after the war, Pearson returned briefly to the bakery but the damage to his lungs during the war had brought on asthma and he could no longer cope with the dust. So he and his wife became farmers, acquiring 250 acres beside Loch Lomond where they taught themselves to rear sheep and cattle.

Pearson resumed his part-time career in the Territorial Army, raising the 15th (Scottish) Battalion of The Parachute Regiment in Glasgow and commanding the Army Cadet Force in Scotland.

His interests included the environmental protection of Loch Lomond, and he helped to procure the loch's first rescue boat several years ago. He was also a familiar figure at Burns nights and local Highland Games.

He was made a Deputy Lieutenant for Glasgow in 1951 and for Dunbartonshire in 1975, then Lord Lieutenant for Dunbartonshire, 1979-90. He also held the honorary title of the Keeper of Dumbarton Castle and took special pride in being made a freeman of Dumbarton, an honour once conferred on Robert Burns.

Pearson endeared himself to Dunbartonshire through his lack of pretension. He remained a hard-working farmer who never lost his Glasgow accent and was happiest in old clothes, gossiping in his local pub. Many resented the fact that he was not knighted.

A resourceful mechanic, he never invested in new cars and flew his pennant from a battered and rusting old Marina. On the occasion of one royal visit it was rumoured that a policeman was quietly detailed by his superior to "park the Lord Lieutenant's car round the corner out of sight".

His wife Joan died three years ago and Alastair Pearson is survived by his daughter and two stepdaughters, whom he brought up as his own. His daughter is the international horsewoman Fiona Stuart.

LADY EDITH FOXWELL

Lady Edith Foxwell, society hostess, died on March 31 aged 77. She was born on June 11, 1918.

LADY EDITH FOXWELL was the exotic product of a distinguished Irish family, and herself a public relations consultant, and part-owner of the Embassy Club in Bond Street during the early 1980s. Marvin Gaye was one of a string of chaperones who accompanied her on her strawberry-daiquiri fuelled forays into café society nightlife. Tabloid editors, amused at the incongruity of her position, dropped her courtesy title as an earl's daughter and renamed her the Queen of the Night.

Edith Sybil Lambart, as she was before her marriage, was born into a public-spirited family. She was the only child of Captain the Hon Lionel Lambart, the second son of the 9th Earl of Cavan, who was master of the Beaufort Hunt and who raised his daughter in quiet country pursuits. Her mother, an American, was a Whitney, one of the family which built the railroads in America.

Her uncle was Field Marshal the Earl of Cavan, a corps commander on the Western Front in the First World War. When the Field Marshal died in 1946 he should have been succeeded by Edith's father. But he had been killed in action in June 1940, when his yacht — which had already rescued many troops from the beaches of Dunkirk — was torpedoed.

Had Edith been a boy, she would in 1946 have become the 11th Earl, but instead the title passed to her uncle, the Venerable the Hon Horace Lambart, Archdeacon of Salop and Prebendary of Lichfield Cathedral. Because of this, in 1947, King George VI granted Edith the title, rank and precedence of daughter of an earl. Whereas this is quite frequently granted to a sister, Lady Edith's case was unusual.

Edith was educated by governesses, and had grown into a beautiful, high-spirited debutante, tall and auburn-haired, when she met her future husband, Ivan Foxwell, in 1937. She never received an official proposal but assumed in her confident manner that they would marry, and so they did in 1940.

After the war Foxwell resumed his career in films, and went on to make many excellent British films of the 1950s and 1960s, among them *The Colditz Story* and *A Touch of Larceny*. He and his photogenic wife became one of the most glamorous couples in London. They had two daughters, and divided their time between Belgravia and Lady Edith's family home, an Elizabethan manor house at Sherston in Wiltshire. Lady Edith adapted well to the different demands of the film world, but she never severed her ties with her old friends. She had the distinction of introducing Margaret Sweeny to the Duke of Argyll.

Lady Edith's name was often to be found in society columns of the 1950s and 1960s. She was a vivacious woman who liked talking to the press at her husband's film launches, and who could always be relied upon for some little quote or anecdote to enliven a journalist's copy. She organised many of these premieres, some of them royal premieres — as for example with *The Colditz Story* and *Decline and Fall* — and became an accomplished hostess.

After her amicable divorce in 1975, her name came to feature more often in the pages of the tabloid press. The reason for this was her sudden conversion to the attractions of disco-dancing at London nightclubs, which she would visit in figure-hugging gold lamé outfits. She was a public relations director and shareholder in the Embassy Club, which Princess Margaret used to visit in Bond Street.

There was also her predilection for forming romantic attachments with younger black men — some of them many years younger. Her most famous friendship was, however, a platonic one with the singer Marvin Gaye. Incongruously for a man who epitomised American soul music, Gaye became addicted to the charms of the English countryside, and what he regarded as the quaint English class system. He enjoyed, too, the idea of getting right away from those hangers-on who followed him around in America. Spending his weekends in Wiltshire allowed him to enter a very creative final period of songwriting before his death in 1984, when he was shot, bizarrely, by his father. Gaye's *Sexual Healing* album was written during those weekends in Wiltshire.

Lady Edith's other house guests might include Wayne Sleep (who often stayed in town at her flat in Fulham), Gareth Hunt, Christopher Lee and Paul Getty. She organised a carnival at Sherston every year, which Joan Collins and James Mason, another friend, used to open.

Lady Edith refused to bow to old age or illness. Soon after a cataract operation she was spotted in flippers, snorkelling in the Pacific. "Far better to grow old disgracefully" was her philosophy. She continued to keep up her career in public relations and in 1989 she launched London's new Yacht Club at Temple Pier.

She is survived by her two daughters, the younger of whom, Atalanta, married at a very young age the photographer Prince Stefano Massimo.

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IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION

There stands in Coffee County, Alabama, a monument to the boll weevil for its services to civilisation by making men think. The citizens of the County, in a part of the States where rest is not undervalued, realise that but for the problems set by the boll weevil they would never have made headway in agricultural science or learnt what clever things can be done with crops and fields. So they have raised a monument to the cause of their progress, and have shown themselves in line with the latest physiologists, who teach that it is by reacting to stimuli that in themselves are more or less lethal that human bodies grow in vigour.

Rightly viewed there is no more inspiring spectacle than obstacles which have been overcome, and the monument in Coffee County ought not to be the last of its kind. Cynics may say that the principle is already recognised and that the public men whose images adorn our great towns have all had a great deal of the boll weevil about them. They have stirred up dormant energies in their fellows by being energetic nuisances. Certainly the House of Commons found OLIVER CROMWELL as destructive an intruder as any boll weevil in Alabama, but he has his great statue in the very precincts of Parliament. All this may be conceded and it still remains true that there is no public recognition of the major forces which have made us what we are. The Venetians paid due respect to the sea, if an annually repeated marriage ceremony is really a compliment, but there is in England no monument to the Channel in recognition of its sustained if imperfectly successful efforts to keep foreigners at a distance. Something imposing on Shakespeare Cliff, to be seen by wayfarers during moments when they are tempted to forget all the advantages of being an island, would look well and would stamp England as an appreciative place.

It is quite unnecessary to be dead to have a monument. The qualification is not mortality but significant achievement. The climate has enjoyed enormous influence, and those who are least dissatisfied with the characters of their fellow countrymen will be the first to subscribe generously to a monument which will show that we know to what we owe some of our more sterling qualities. The sun has from the earliest time found worshippers such as the English climate has never attracted.

ON THIS DAY

April 4, 1931

Boll weevil: snout-nosed beetle that is a serious pest throughout the southeastern United States ... capable of destroying as much as 30 per cent of the entire cotton crop. Wide range of organic chemicals available for frequent spraying — Encyclopedia Americana.

THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY APRIL 4 1996

NEWS

Yard foils £5m kidnapping

■ A Greek shipping magnate told how he feared for his life as he was kept blindfold and drugged in a cupboard for nine days by armed kidnappers demanding a £5 million ransom.

George Fraghistas, who had been abducted close to his London home on March 24, was found after a huge police operation that led to the arrest of four men. He was "very disturbed, worried, upset and frightened" ...... **Page 1**

Ministers attack 'unhelpful' Europe

■ Ministers attacked Britain's "unhelpful" European partners for refusing to lift the worldwide ban on beef products as the Government confirmed plans for a selective slaughter of 4.6 million older cattle. Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, threatened to take legal action over the "unjustified" European Union ban on British beef ...... **Pages 1, 2**

Sentencing reform

Michael Howard unveiled the most far-reaching sentencing reforms this century and promised tough American-style prison terms for persistent burglars and offenders convicted of repeated violence ...... **Pages 1, 8, 9**

Croatian aircrash

An aircraft carrying Ron Brown, the American Commerce Secretary and a delegation of American industrialists crashed in stormy weather off the Croatian port of Dubrovnik ...... **Page 1**

Teachers' demand

The most moderate of the big teaching unions issued a near-unanimous demand for the Government's school inspection system to be scrapped ...... **Page 2**

Woolwich crisis

The £3 billion stock market flotation of the Woolwich Building Society has been put in jeopardy by the departure of Peter Robinson, its chief executive ...... **Page 1**

Round-world arrests

A British couple in their sixties appealed for help after the Eritrean navy interrupted their 13-year circumnavigation of the globe by boarding their yacht and putting them under house arrest .. **Page 5**

Baby allowed to die

A baby will have her life-support machine switched off to end what a judge called "almost living death" ...... **Page 6**

Fast funerals

Mourners should no longer expect a hearse to be driven at a respectful speed or even stick to the 30mph limit, the funeral ombudsman said ...... **Page 10**

No 'Gulf' disease

A study of nearly 19,000 Americans who suffered a variety of illnesses after serving in the Gulf conflict found no evidence of Gulf War syndrome ...... **Page 13**

Hilter's orders

A former SS captain accused of organising a Nazi massacre of Italians during the Second World War said that the atrocity was ordered by Hitler ...... **Page 14**

Ukraine support

John Major will spend a day in Ukraine before arriving in Moscow for the nuclear safety summit. His talks are intended as a signal that Britain is committed to a free Ukraine ...... **Page 15**

Neo-Nazis jailed

Five leaders of South Africa's neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) were each sentenced to an effective 26 years' imprisonment for their roles in a bombing campaign ...... **Page 16**

Arab fears

Arab states will be crippled by instability and a worsening crisis of identity unless entrenched rulers increase political freedom, according to a senior British diplomat ...... **Page 17**

Dial KO for knock-out

■ Hong Kong police are blaming a rising number of knock-out punches on the mobile phone. With one in six adults now carrying a phone, hardly a week goes by without someone suffering a cordless crack across the head. "You could say it's the weapon of choice," said Ray Pierce, the deputy district commander of Mong Kok police station ...... **Page 17**

JOHN STILLWELL

Devon Tory MPs (from left) Sir Peter Emery (Honiton), Gary Streeter (Plymouth, Sutton), Anthony Steen (South Hams), Dame Janet Fookes (Plymouth, Drake) and Rupert Allason (Torbay), demonstrating their support for the British beef industry at lunch yesterday

BUSINESS

Northern Rock windfall: A share windfall is in store for 1.3 million savers and 250,000 borrowers at the building society which plans to convert into a bank ...... **Page 25**

Oil jobs: Hundreds of jobs have been saved at Harland and Wolff after the yard announced that it has won a £100 million order to build the world's largest floating oil production vessel for BP ...... **Page 25**

Granada: The new owner of Forte, has abruptly parted company with two of the most senior executives at Forte's hotels, most of which are earmarked for disposal ...... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 3.4 to 3725.1. Sterling fell from 83.5 to 83.4 after a rise from $1.5244 to $1.5261 but a drop from DM2.2589 to DM2.2571 ...... **Page 28**

SPORT

Cricket: Alan Lee says the election of Ian Botham, the people's favourite, as an England selector would not resurrect the national team's fortunes ...... **Page 48**

Golf: Colin Montgomerie leads the European task force warming up for the Masters next week by taking on the Americans in the BellSouth Classic ...... **Page 42**

Rowing: As the Boat Race build-up continues, John Bryant argues that the magic would be destroyed by any further moves towards "cheque-book rowing" ...... **Page 46**

Rugby league: London Broncos play their first home match of the Super League campaign when they take on Paris Saint-Germain at The Valley, the home of Charlton Athletic, tonight ...... **Page 44**

ARTS

Small triumph: Made on a shoestring budget, Gillies MacKinnon's *Small Faces* superbly evokes a boyhood on the tough streets of 1960s' Glasgow ...... **Page 35**

Bright new dramatist: The Bush Theatre in London "has discovered yet another striking dramatist who only a few years ago was bouncing about his playpen," writes Benedict Nightingale of the 26-year-old Samuel Adamson ...... **Page 36**

Penguins for pennies: Today, Penguin Books publishes its first samplers of children's classics at 60p each ...... **Page 37**

Wonderful Copenhagen: A magnificent new museum will be one lasting legacy of Copenhagen's year as "Cultural Capital of Europe" ...... **Page 37**

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ FASHION
New York's newest:
Iain R. Webb on the best of American style

■ PLUS ...
Valerie Grove meets Michael Palin; David Sinclair interviews the country rock star Steve Earle

FEATURES

Island wrangle: Lord McAlpine explains the dispute between two brothers who are realising a childhood dream and the man who is a law unto himself on Sark .. **Page 19**

BODY AND MIND

Prozac pooches: *Giles Coren on a book providing cures for blanket-sucking in dachshunds* ...... **Page 18**

All-conkering: Extract of horse chestnut *is seen to cure chronic* venous insufficiency, a build-up of fluid in the legs ...... **Page 18**

TRAVEL

Perfect parcs: Holiday villages are enjoying a boom but guests want interesting locations as well as indoor facilities ...... **Page 40**

Tomorrow's wild: Paignton zoo in Devon is undergoing a £6 million transformation into an environmental theme park ...... **Page 41**

BOOKS

A.S. Byatt on Doris Lessing's novel: a maddening tale of erotic obsession: Daniel Johnson on the lives of Thomas Mann; and a look at the myth of Pandora ...... **Pages 38, 39**

THE PAPERS

About 160,000 residents of Hong Kong lined up this week to get a British National Overseas passport. What do these people know that the rest of the world ought to? — *Wall Street Journal*

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Dr Alfred Kinsey was the catalyst for a sexual revolution. *Reputations* (BBC2, 9pm) **Review:** Peter Barnard remembers Barry Bucknell, king of DIY ...... **Page 47**

OPINION

The protection paper

The state should never be eager to plunder pockets but its first duty is to protect the innocent. Prison may not always reform but it protects; and protection is what the public demands and deserves ...... **Page 21**

Back in Ukraine

The more Russian nationalists rail at Nato for electoral advantage, the more Ukraine understands its neighbours' anxiety to creep under the Alliance umbrella ...... **Page 21**

Blue moon

Forest-dwelling baddies (with names like Gagool and Twala) are about to chop the heroes up, or to boil them in oil, when our man says "Not so fast, you fiends, or I'll take the sun away" ...... **Page 21**

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

French attitudes are swinging even further towards what could be called a social fortress Europe. These social market policies have produced Europe's unemployment rate of over 11 per cent. The single currency would cement this high unemployment in place and extend it to Britain. It would make Euro-sclerosis incurable ...... **Page 20**

PAUL HEINEY

When it comes to making milk and meat, cows know best; and although Buttercup has warned us, we have ignored the signs which were telling us that she thought things were not right ...... **Page 20**

PETER RIDDELL

The chances of British participation in a European single currency have been made more, rather than less, likely as a result of yesterday's carefully crafted compromise on a referendum ...... **Page 12**

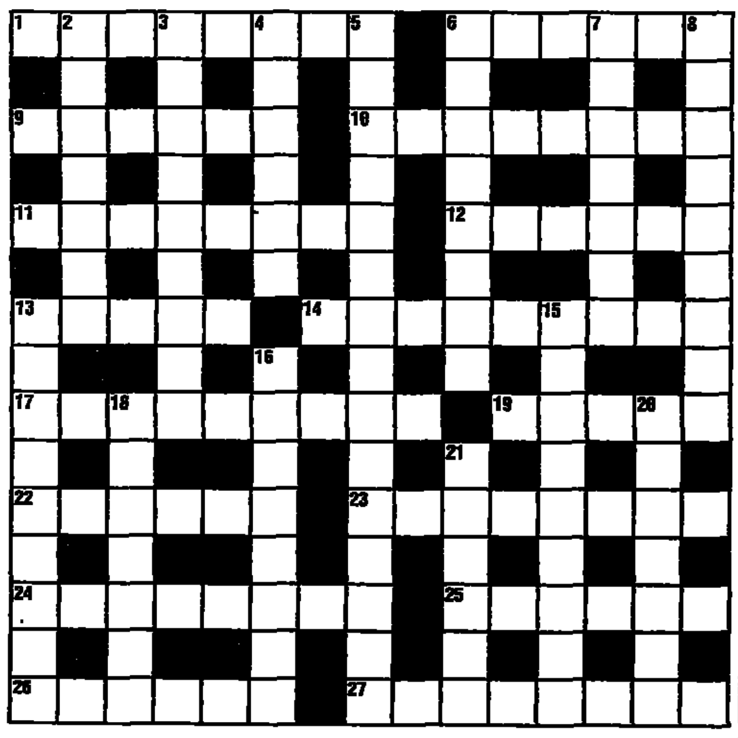
OBITUARIES

Dante Giacosa, Italian car designer; **Brigadier Alastair Pearson**, former Lord Lieutenant of Dunbartonshire; **Lady Edith Foxwell**, society hostess ...... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Prevention of terrorism; theories on how humans catch "mad cow disease"; airline 'bumping' .... **Page 21**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,133



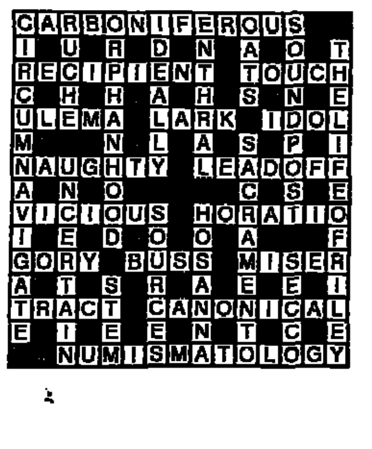
ACROSS

1 To be or not to be — rewritten in quotes? (8).
6 Black fish on spit (6).
9 Grating sound of 1 (6).
10 Notes are made by this judge (8).
11 I mind his breaking contract (8).
12 Memorable message (6).
13 Ring setting for royal jewel (5).
14 Journey shared by Hartley's storyteller? (2-7).
17 Florentine nearly crashed van (5,4).
19 Retired sailor with a collection of maps (5).
22 What's to be done with woman concealing information? (6).
23 Run over engineer with vehicle (8).
24 Deny Duke is objective about class (8).
25 When speaking, show resentment of wedding (6).
26 Horse, having lost heart, backed to make comeback (6).
27 Little bird settling down comfortably (8).

DOWN

2 Exalt, you said, exalt (7).
3 Persevere, being enthusiastic about receiving one sovereign (7,2).
4 Part of Yorkshire, nice and peaceful (6).
5 Maybe Geordie and Tony turn on charm rarely (5-10).
6 Dollar and a quarter woman put in — for nothing (8).
7 Article poet produced rather slowly (7).
8 Rain's held off — bad luck! (4,5).
13 Climbing scarlet flower above ground, producing poisonous creeper (4,5).
15 Having made dispositions resolutely (4,1,4).
16 With input of money uncouth person becomes agreeable (8).
18 A piece of text in part of Bible was disturbing (7).
20 Sailors join soldiers in refrain (7).
21 City that was almost supreme (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,132



Times Two Crossword, page 48

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East Midlands	712
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N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
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National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
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North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Saunton Sands, Devon, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Clacton, Essex, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Wick, Highland, 0.08in; highest sunshine: Scarborough, North Yorkshire, 11.8hr.

NORWAY

Wake up to Norway with a Short Break - Oslo, the Viking capital city or Stavanger, gateway to the fjord country.

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SAS

Wake up to NORWAY

FORECAST

☐ **General:** any early mist will soon clear to leave England and Wales with a dry and fairly sunny day. After widespread overnight frost, it will remain rather chilly in the east but temperatures should rise to near normal in the west. Winds will be mostly light, perhaps fresh in the south later.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mostly dry, and sunshine in many places should lift temperatures slightly above normal, rather more so in the Moray Firth area. Increasing cloud and freshening southerly winds may bring some rain to the Western Isles later.

☐ **London, E Anglia, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, NE England:** dry and bright with sunny spells. Wind east or southeast mainly light. Chilly in places. Max 8-10C (46-50F).

☐ **SE England, Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** dry and bright with sunny spells. Wind east or southeast moderate, locally fresh later. Chilly in the wind. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth:** dry and bright with sunny periods. Wind south or southwest light or moderate. Rather warm in places. Max 10-12C (50-54F).

☐ **NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** sunny intervals at first, cloudy later, perhaps some drizzle. Wind south or southwest moderate becoming fresh. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Argyll, N Ireland:** dry, sunny spells at first, cloudier later. Wind south or southeast mainly moderate. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **NW Scotland:** becoming cloudy, some rain or drizzle and hill fog later. Wind south moderate becoming fresh or strong. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Outlook:** mainly dry at first but some showers likely over England and Wales later.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm. b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

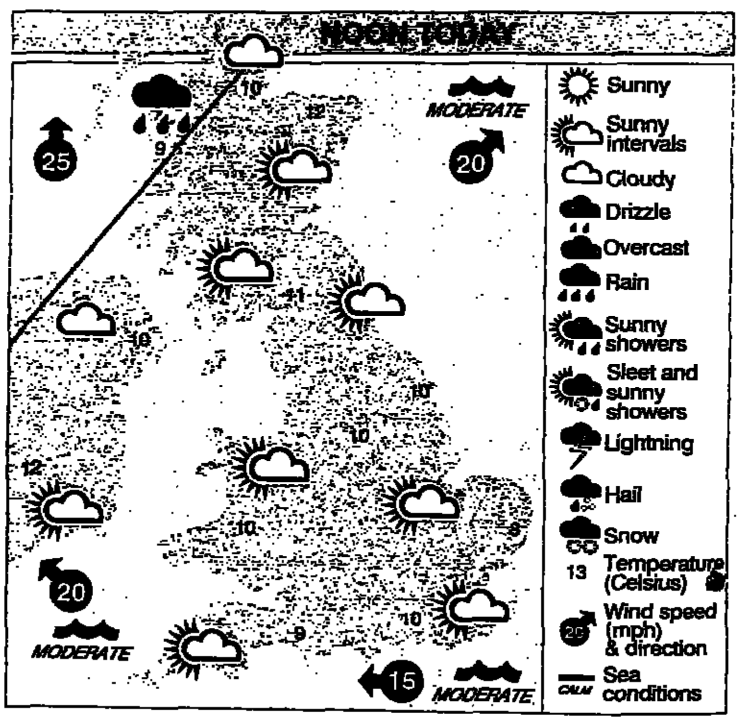
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	2.5	-	11	52	c	Manchester	4.9	-	11	52	b
Anglesey	4.2	0.01	11	52	b	Margate	7.4	-	7	45	s
Aspatria	5.3	-	11	52	s	Minehead	7.0	-	9	48	s
Belfast	8.7	-	12	54	s	Morecambe	3.8	-	9	48	b
Birmingham	7.7	-	10	50	s	Newcastle	7.1	-	11	52	s
Bognor R	10.4	-	9	48	s	Newquay	7.3	-	X	X	b
Bournem'th	-	-	8	46	s	Norwich	8.0	-	7	45	s
Bristol	7.3	-	11	52	s	Nottingham	X				
Buxton	5.0	-	8	46	s	Oxford	9.5	-	9	48	s
C F C						Penzance	7.0	-	11	52	s
Cardiff	6.6	-	10	50	s	Plymouth	X				
Clacton	8.7	-	5	41	s	Poole	9.7	-	9	48	s
Cromer	9.5	-	5	41	s	Prestatyn	X				
Eastbourne	8.8	-	7	45	s	Ross-o-wye	6.0	-	11	52	s
Edinburgh	0.4	-	10	50	c	Ryde	10.6	-	8	46	s
Eskdalemuir	0.8	-	8	46	c	Salcombe	9.9	-	9	48	s
Exmouth	9.2	-	8	46	s	Salcombe	9.9	-	9	48	s
Falmouth	X					Sandown	10.9	-	8	46	s
Fishguard	3.0	-	11	52	b	Saunton Snd	4.7	-	13	55	b
Folkestone	9.2	-	7	45	s	Scarboro'	11.8	-	8	46	s
Glasgow	1.7	0.01	11	52	sh	Shrewsbury	4.1	-	11	52	s
Guernsey	9.5	-	9	48	s	Southend	7.7	-	8	46	s
Hastings	8.3	-	7	45	s	Southport	4.2	-	11	52	s
Hayling I	9.9	-	8	46	s	Southsea	9.5	-	7	45	s
Herne Bay	8.0	-	6	43	s	St Ives X					
Hove	8.0	-	9	48	s	Stornoway	3.4	0.03	10	50	b
Hunstanton	10.8	-	7	45	s	Swanage	9.7	-	7	45	s
Isle of Man	10.8	-	10	50	s	Teignmouth	9.2	0.01	8	46	s
Jersey	10.3	-	9	48	s	Tenby	X				
Lerwick	4.2	0.02	9	48	b	Tiree	6.3	0.01	10	50	s
Leuchars	X					Torquay	9.2	0.01	9	48	s
Littlehmptn	9.0	-	8	46	s	Tynemouth	-	-	9	48	s
London	10.6	-	10	50	s	Ventnor	11.3	-	9	48	s
Lowestoft	9.0	-	7	45	s	Weymouth	10.3	0.01	7	45	s

ABROAD

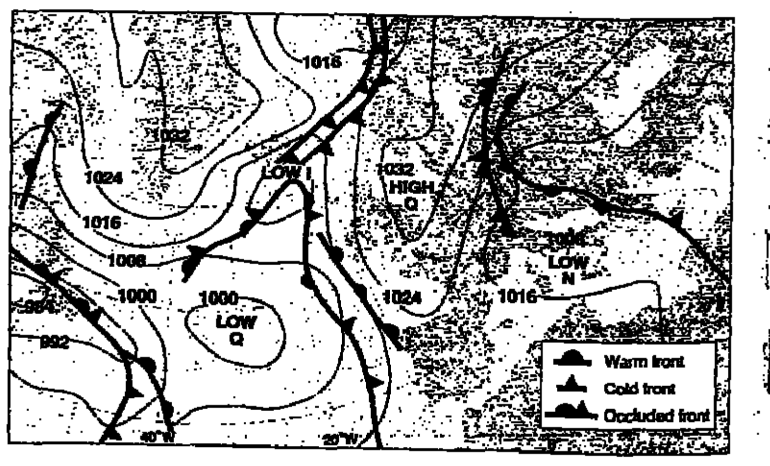
	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	14	57	f	Corfu	14	57	f	Madrid	12	54	r	Rome	17	63	f
Akrotiri	20	68	s	C'phagn	3	37	s	Majorca	16	61	s	S Fr'isco	16	61	f
Alex'dria	22	72	s	Dublin	10	50	c	Malaga	19	66	f	S Paulo	30	86	f
Algiers	19	66	f	Dubrovnik	10	50	r	Malta	19	66	f	Salzburg	2	36	sn
Amst'dm	5	41	f	Faro	17	63	c	Melb'rne	18	64	c	Santiago	11	52	c
Athens	17	63	s	Florence	10	50	r	Mexico C	21	70	s	Seoul	7	45	s
B Aires	22	72	c	Frankfurt	6	43	f	Miami	22	72	s	Sing'por	31	88	f
Bahrain	29	84	s	Funchal	19	66	f	Milan	12	54	c	St'kholm	0	32	sn
Bangkok	36	97	s	Geneva	6	43	f	Montreal	4	39		Strasb'rg	7	45	s
Barbados	30	86	s	Gibraltar	18	64	f	Moscow	3	37	c	Sydney	26	79	s
Barcelona	17	63	f	Helsinki	1	34	sn	Munich	1	34	sn	Tangier	17	63	c
Beirut	20	68	s	Hong K	14	57	c	N Delhi	29	84	s	Tel Aviv	23	73	s
Belgrade	13	55	f	Innsbrck	4	39	c	N York	11	52	s	Tenerife	22	72	s
Berlin	5	41	f	Istanbul	13	55	s	Naples	14	57	c	Tokyo	8	46	f
Bermuda	19	66	r	Jeddah	33	91	s	Nice	13	55	c	Toronto	X		
Biarritz	9	48	f	Jo'burg	21	70	f	Oslo	3	37	s	Tunis	22	72	f
Borde'x	9	48	s	Karachi	X			Paris	7	45	f	Valencia	20	68	c
Brussels	4	39	f	L Angels	16	61	s	Peking	13	55	s	Vanc'ver	7	45	s
Budapst	6	43	r	L Palmas	20	68	s	Perth	29	84	s	Venice	10	50	f
Cairo	26	79	s	Le Touqt	6	43	f	Prague	4	39	f	Vienna	0	32	sn
Cape Tn	X			Lisbon	16	61	f	Reykjavik	6	43	c	Warsaw	4	39	s
Ch'church	28	82	s	Locarno	X			Rhodes	18	64	s	Wash'ton	11	52	s
Chicago	13	55	s	Luxembg	4	39	f	Rio de J	26	79	f	Wel'ngton	14	57	r
Cologne	5	41	f	Luxor	32	90	s	Riyadh	34	93	s	Zurich	4	39	c

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: high Q will change little; low I will run northeast while filling; lows Q and N will remain stationary and fill



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	1:50	6.8	2:15	7.0	Leith	2:38	5.4	2:59	5.5
Aberdeen	1:30	4.1	1:42	4.3	Liverpool	11:28	9.3	11:47	9.3
Avonmouth	7:23	13.0	7:44	13.1	Lowestoft	9:51	2.4	9:51	2.5
Belfast	11:10	3.5	11:26	3.4	Margate	-	-	12:16	4.6
Cardiff	7:11	11.8	7:33	11.9	Milford Haven	6:16	6.9	6:36	6.9
Devonport	6:59	5.3	6:22	5.3	Newquay	5:08	6.8	5:26	6.9
Dover	11:09	6.5	11:26	6.7	Oban	5:53	3.9	6:12	3.9
Dublin (N Wall)	11:40	4.0	11:51	4.0	Penzance	4:44	5.4	5:00	5.4
Falmouth	5:06	5.1	5:24	5.2	Portland	7:02	2.1	7:28	2.1
Greenock	0:49	3.1	12:42	3.3	Portsmouth	11:34	4.5	11:53	4.6
Harwich	-	-	12:07	3.9	Shoreham	11:20	6.1	11:39	6.2
Holyhead	10:25	5.5	10.45	5.5	Southampton	10:53	4.5	11:13	4.5
Hull (Albert D)	6:25	7.3	6:33	7.4	Swansea	6:32	9.4	6:52	9.4
Ilfracombe	6:05	9.3	6:26	9.4	Tees	3:42	5.2	3:56	5.3
King's Lynn	6:23	6.5	6:37	6.7	Walton-on-Naze	-	-	12:02	4.2

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Full moon today

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
6.29 am	7.39 pm
Moon sets	**Moon rises**
6.39 am	8.29 pm

London 7.39 pm to 6.27 am
Bristol 8.49 pm to 6.36 am
Edinburgh 7.56 pm to 6.33 am
Manchester 7.50 pm to 6.32 am
Penzance 7.58 pm to 6.50 am

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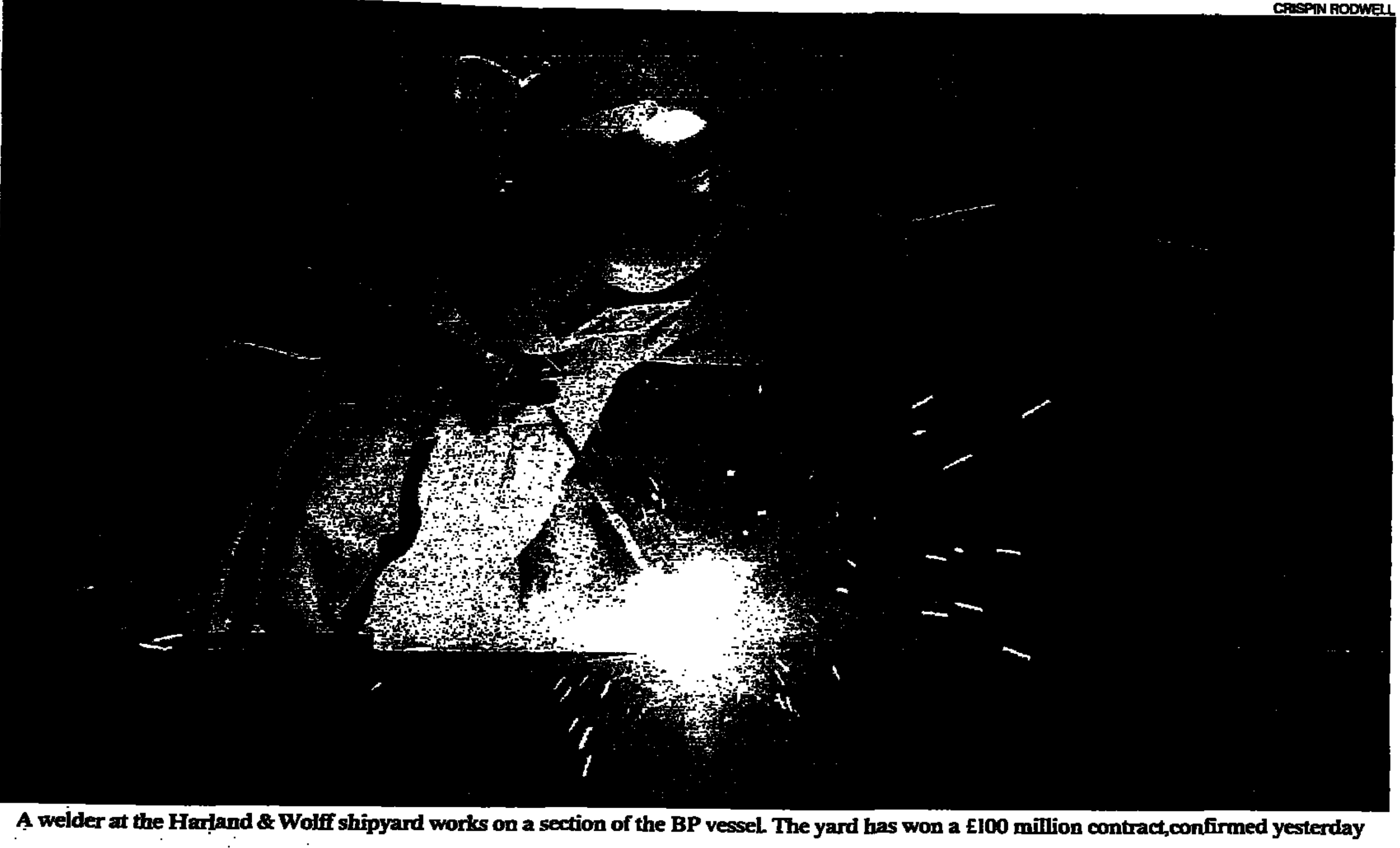
THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY APRIL 4 1996



CRISPIN RODWELL

A welder at the Harland & Wolff shipyard works on a section of the BP vessel. The yard has won a £100 million contract,confirmed yesterday

Hundreds of jobs saved as BP project wins go-ahead

By Nicholas Watt and Carl Mortished

HUNDREDS of jobs will be saved in Northern Ireland after BP received the go-ahead by the Department of Trade and Industry for a new oil development. The £900 million development of the Schiehallion oilfield is part of the huge frontier oil province in the Atlantic, west of Shetland and Orkney.

The project will save the jobs at Harland & Wolff after the Belfast shipyard announced yesterday that it had won a £100 million order to build the world's largest floating oil production vessel.

The Schiehallion development will include a satellite field, Loyal, jointly owned by BP and Shell, which has reserves of 85 million barrels of oil. Together, the two fields have recoverable reserves of 425 million barrels. BP anticipates peak production from the fields of 142,000 bpd.

BP said yesterday that UK companies would account for 80 per cent of the development work. Atlantic Frontier Alliance, which has been awarded the contract and includes Brown and Root, Harland & Wolff, Single Buoy Mooring and Coflexip Stena, will design and build a £400 million floating production storage and offloading vessel (FPSO) capable of storing 900,000 barrels of oil.

The development will involve 29 seabed wells in four clusters with oil flowing through subsea pipelines and risers into the FPSO. The vessel will be permanently stationed at sea and a shuttle operation will transport the oil every four to six days. BP said tankers could transport oil directly to Rotterdam or to terminals at Sullom Voe or Flotta.

The go-ahead for Schiehallion, one of the largest developments to be announced in the last decade, comes after the opening of the Foinaven oilfield in the same area, which is expected to commence production this year at the rate of 80,000 barrels per day.

Harland & Wolff, which has been losing millions of pounds a year, now hopes to become a world leader in the construction of the floating oil rigs.

Harland & Wolff has already started work on the hull of the vessel. The turret and topside, which are being built on the mainland, will be shipped to Belfast where the £400 million vessel will be fitted out by Harland & Wolff.

Tim Eggar, Minister for Industry and Energy, who approved the development of the Schiehallion oilfield, said he was delighted that Harland & Wolff had won the order to build the oil production vessel. Speaking at the shipyard yesterday, Mr Eggar paid tribute to Harland & Wolff's workforce and to Per Nielsen, its chief executive.

He said that the shipyard's difficulties in future would be in scheduling new orders, rather than in trying to win them.

Mr Nielsen said that up to 800 new jobs could be created at the shipyard if it wins further orders to build FPSOs. Asked whether the latest order would mean the yard would break even, he said: "We feel now that the situation has emerged where things can start to be a little more bright."

The announcement at Harland & Wolff came as workers at the neighbouring Shorts plant protested against compulsory job losses in the wake of the collapse of Fokker. Shorts said that there would be 300 compulsory redundancies on top of about 200 voluntary redundancies. A further 540 temporary workers on fixed-term contracts have been sacked.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3725.1	(-3.4)
Yield	3.79%	
FT-SE A All share	1855.89	(-0.01)
Nikkei	21464.73	(-135.35)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5666.62	(-5.06)*
S&P Composite	653.77	(-1.49)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5⁵⁄₁₆%)
Long Bond	91¹¹⁄₁₆*	(92⁷⁄₃₂)
Yield	6.65%*	(6.60%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6%	(6¹⁄₃₂%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	105⁷⁄₁₆	(105⁵⁄₈)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5263*	(1.5243)
London:		
$	1.5263	(1.5245)
DM	2.2551	(2.2594)
FFr	7.6890	(7.7035)
SFr	1.8210	(1.8192)
Yen	162.85	(163.88)
£ Index	83.4	(83.5)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4792*	(1.4834)
FFr	5.0400*	(5.0579)
SFr	1.1940*	(1.1955)
Yen	106.93*	(107.61)
$ Index	95.7	(95.9)

Tokyo close Yen 107.13

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	$18.85	($19.00)

GOLD

London close	$394.95	($394.75)

* denotes midday trading price

Transformed

Siebe, the engineering group, has launched an agreed offer for Unitech, the electronics company, valuing it at £520 million. The deal will establish Siebe as the world's largest supplier of transformers and control systems. Siebe paid 590p a share last month to Electrowatt, the Swiss utility, for a 25 per cent stake in Unitech.

Page 30, Tempus 28

Petrol wars

Evidence that the petrol price war may be nearing its end gave a boost to the big supermarket chains which have been at the sharp end of the forecourt battle.

Markets, page 28

Northern Rock plans flotation bonanza

By Patricia Tehan and Robert Miller

NORTHERN ROCK, Britain's eighth largest building society, has announced plans to turn itself into a bank with a £1 billion market capitalisation next year, saying it will refuse to consider takeover approaches from third parties.

The float will mean an average £1,000 free share giveaway to its one million qualifying members.

Robert Dickinson, the chairman, said the move was intended to keep predators at bay. He said the society had not received takeover approaches from third parties and would not be prepared to consider them should it do so.

He rejected the suggestion that by seeking to convert to bank status the society was effectively putting itself up for sale and said that if the board received an approach it would refuse to put any deal to its 1.3 million members.

Northern Rock decided to give up its mutual status after an approach from JP Morgan, the investment bank, last August. JP Morgan suggested an unusually structured move that would help the society to retain its independence and make it less attractive to potential predators. The society started serious work on the deal, codenamed "Swede" because of similarities with Sweden's Swedbank arrangement, in December.

The society plans to set up a charitable foundation, the Northern Rock Foundation, to support causes mainly in the North East of England.

The new Northern Rock bank plans to agree to covenant 5 per cent of its annual pre-tax profits to the foundation, which based on last year's figures would have been £7 million.

In a defensive move, the foundation will receive non-voting, non-dividend paying shares in the new bank that in a takeover would convert into 15 per cent of the ordinary share capital of the company.

Many analysts, however, pointed out that there was no defence mechanism against a hostile bidder prior to the society joining the stock market, when it will be protected for five years.

Christopher Sharp, Northern Rock's managing director, said: "I have no doubt that members will endorse this scheme. It not only benefits them, but the wider community."

Mr Dickinson said that by becoming a bank, Northern Rock would escape "restrictive" building society legislation and gain freedom in its capital-raising activities. Leo Finn, deputy managing director, said this would increase freedom for making acquisitions, for instance purchasing mortgage books.

The change of status would also benefit the wider community through the foundation, expressing the society's commitment to the region, said Mr Dickinson, as well as benefiting members through the free share distribution.

He said there were no plans to become an "all singing all dancing" financial services provider, and that the new bank would concentrate on its core mortgage market. It has been seen as an ambitious society, having taken over the North of England Building Society in May 1994.

About 750,000 investing members with at least £50 in their accounts on April 2 and at least £100 on December 31 this year and 250,000 borrowers will qualify for the share giveaway. Although the terms have not yet been finalised, it seems likely that there will be a flat distribution of shares.

Details of the conversion plans will be posted to members early next year and they will be asked to vote on the plans in spring 1997. At least 20 per cent of qualifying members must vote and at least 75 per cent of the votes must be in favour of the deal.

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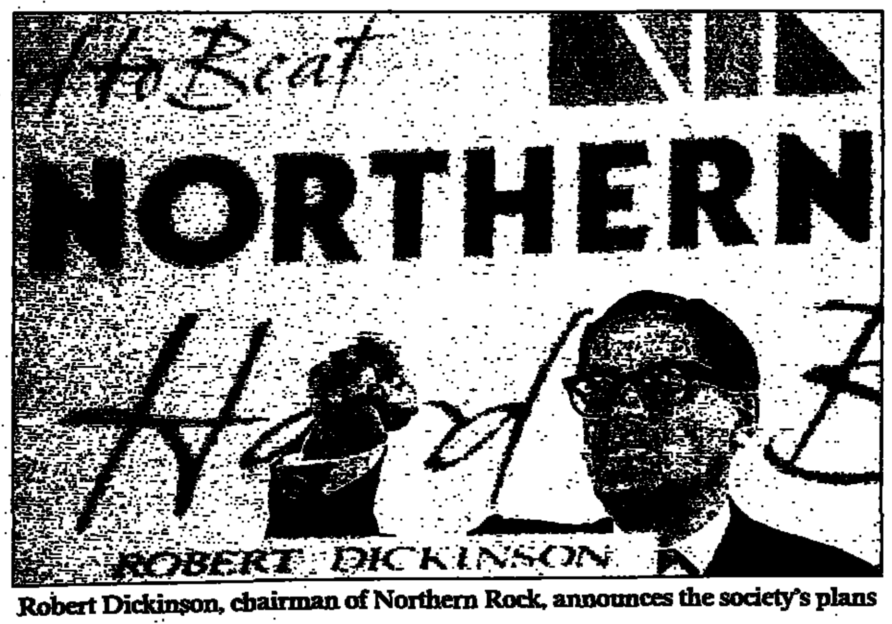
Passbook power, page 29



Robert Dickinson, chairman of Northern Rock, announces the society's plans

Interest-free mortgage offer

WEST BROMWICH, another building society widely seen as a bid target, yesterday underlined the cut-throat nature of the mortgage market when it launched what is believed to be the first interest-free home loan.

A discount equivalent to the society's base rate, currently 7.25 per cent, is offered for the first six months of a loan, followed by a discount of 2 per cent for a further six months.

The offer is available on mortgages and remortgages of up to 75 per cent of the purchase price. The society said it had already received a large number of enquiries from borrowers.

Pennington, page 27

Two Forte hotel chiefs check out

By Martin Waller

GRANADA GROUP, the new owner of the Forte group, has abruptly parted company with two of the most senior executives at Forte's hotels business, much of which is earmarked for disposal under plans made at the time of the £3.9 billion takeover.

Randolph Guthrie, former managing director of international business at Meridien and Exclusive, the two upmarket chains that are up for sale, has departed after a disagreement with Granada over a shake-up of the business to be announced shortly.

He is now on holiday, and talks have yet to start on compensation terms. Mr Guthrie's departure has come as a surprise to the City, which had been expecting Granada to make efforts to keep the old management team in place before any sale. Also leaving is Richard Carrick, marketing director for the entire hotels division. He has quit for "personal and family reasons", according to Granada. A recent arrival at Forte from Airtours, the package holiday business, he has decided not to relocate his family from the north of England now the company is under new ownership. He is not thought to be in line for compensation.

Granada had said it would be selling the upmarket Forte hotels but executives have indicated privately recently that they are in no hurry to clinch a deal. One possible buyer is Sir Rocco Forte, former chairman at Forte, who is putting together the finances for an approach.

Pennington, page 27

City regards rate cut as outside bet

By Janet Bush
Economics Correspondent

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday held their monthly meeting on interest rates, with the City seeing a further rate cut as an outside bet.

They met late in the afternoon, instead of the morning, because of Mr Clarke's engagements relating to the Cabinet decision to put a referendum on a single currency in an election manifesto. The Bank's first chance to signal a change in rates would be in its usual money market operations today at about 9.30am.

Most economists believe that, having cut rates by a quarter point in three of the last four meetings, Mr Clarke and Mr George may want to wait to see whether manufacturing joins consumer spending on an upward trend.

Clash over report on Lloyd's plan

By Jon Ashworth

LLOYD'S of London receives a resounding endorsement in an independent report to be published today. But the names' representative who commissioned the report on the reconstruction and renewal (R&R) plan has refused to sign it off, stirring fresh controversy at Lime Street.

Alan Porter, deputy chairman of the Lloyd's Names Associations' Working Party, claims Slaughter and May's critique of the R&R plan falls short of its objectives. His refusal to endorse the 80-page report brings him into conflict with Sir David Berriman and Damon de Lazlo, fellow members of the Validation Steering Group, both of whom commend the report's conclusions.

The report, copies of which are expected to be sent to names today, concludes that no name would be better off if Lloyd's were to go into run-off. Without R&R, names would have no finality, no end to litigation, no assistance from the central fund, and would be likely to face immediate cash calls. It also confirms that Equitas will offer names more certain "finality" than was recently thought possible.

Mr Porter said the report's terms of reference bore little resemblance to those originally proposed. However, Sir David said it confirmed Lloyd's was on the right track.

Separately, the Association of Lloyd's Names has called on Lloyd's to put plans by Murray Lawrence, a managing agency, to merge seven syndicates from the beginning of 1997 on hold until permission has been sought from syndicate members.

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Building industry welcomes change in bids for projects

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

THE construction industry yesterday welcomed new Treasury guidelines on the procurement of projects under the umbrella of the Private Finance Initiative, aimed at cutting the cost of bidding and speeding up the flow of deals by setting out a clear framework of best practice.

Martin Laing, chairman of the Construction Industry Employers Council which has been highly critical of the logistics of the PFI rather than the concept, said that he was pleased that the Government had listened to so many of the construction industry's suggestions, but urged that the new guidelines be implemented properly to accelerate the number of projects getting under way.

The guidelines were announced yesterday by Michael Jack, Financial Secretary to the Treasury. They include naming departmental champions — usually the minister — who are given the responsibility of seeing projects through; the publication of indicative timetables for each project; inviting no more than three or four bidders to produce full tenders rather than the eight or nine often invited now; the writing of model contract clauses by the Treasury to prevent having to reinvent clauses for each project.

The CBI also welcomed the news. Adair Turner, CBI Director-General, said: "The PFI vehicle has had difficulty so far in gathering speed. The new guidelines will help to move it up a gear, putting the right people — ministers — in the driving seat."

Mr Jack yesterday said that £4.76 billion of deals under PFI have now been agreed and announced. A further £300 milion of hospital projects have now got an identified preferred bidder and are yet to be announced. On top of this, he has identified a further £330 million of examples of imminent projects such as the extension of the Docklands Light Railway and a British Museum Support building. He said that the Government had therefore reached 95 per cent of the £5 billion in projects which was its target.

The PFI is a scheme designed to bring private sector money into infrastructure building projects and share public risk with private companies.

Finance sector bullish

FINANCIAL services businesses are, on average, more optimistic about the immediate future than at any time in the past two years. This optimism is, however, based on plans to cut jobs, so as to trim costs, as well as on hopes that business will rise (*Graham Searjeant writes*).

The CBI/Coopers & Lybrand quarterly financial services survey for March shows a balance of 33 per cent more optimistic than three months ago. A balance of 59 per cent see business volumes rising this quarter.

A balance of 36 per cent expect to cut payrolls, with 46 per cent aiming to, against only 10 per cent expecting net recruitment.

Pennington, page 27

ADRIAN BROOKS

Jurek Piasecki is concerned over Signet's lack of response

Bass 'will need £300m' for takeover

By Alasdair Murray and Greer Morpeth

BASS will need to pay about £300 million to acquire Carlsberg-Tetley, the brewing company, according to industry experts. But there was continuing uncertainty yesterday over the likelihood of a deal, as Bass and Carlsberg and Allied Domecq, Carlsberg-Tetley's joint owners, all refused to comment on reports that they were locked in talks.

Carlsberg said last month that it was not interested in selling its stake. Bass is attracted by the strong Tetley and Carlsberg brands and the opportunity for cost savings. Analysts suggested Bass could save around £75 million a year from merging its brewing interests with Carlsberg-Tetley.

A big hurdle is likely to be the current supply arrangements under which Carlsberg-Tetley supplies beer to the Allied Domecq tied pub estate at relatively high prices compared with the rest of the sector, although the agreement comes up for renewal at the end of the year.

Bass is also likely to face opposition from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. A deal could also prompt a demerger of Allied Domecq's pub retail and spirits division.

Pennington, page 27

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Liberty will not raise bid for The Observer

LIBERTY PUBLISHING, formed by Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, to bid for *The Observer*, said yesterday that it has no intention of increasing its offer and will attempt to buy other media businesses instead.

Liberty, financed entirely by Mr Al Fayed, bid £15 million for *The Observer*, then raised it last month to £25 million. The Scott Trust, the charitable body which owns *The Observer* and *The Guardian*, rejected the higher offer because the paper is not for sale. John Dux, Liberty chief executive, said: "We are not considering increasing the bid. We will wait and see what happens." He would not say which companies Liberty would approach next, but said radio and TV businesses, as well as newspapers, are candidates.

Hewden Stuart warning

HEWDEN STUART, the plant-hire group, has given warning that trading this year has begun poorly. Severe weather in February delayed work on many construction projects, adding to underlying difficulties. The company believes that the market may not improve for some time and is prepared for continuing pressure on hire rates. Pre-tax profits rose by 4 per cent, to £36.3 million, in the year to January 31. A 2.25p final dividend makes 3p, up 8.3 per cent. The shares fell 9p, to 157p.

Hella grows in UK

GERMANY'S Hella Manufacturing, which makes car light equipment, is to double its UK production, building a £27 million factory and creating up to 300 jobs over the next five years. The company currently employs 200 people at its UK site at Banbury, Oxfordshire, making rear and signal lamps for Jaguar, Rover, Honda, Nissan and Land Rover. The new factory, which is to produce headlamps, will be near the existing site. Work on the first phase should begin this month.

British Coal sells land

MORE THAN 7,200 acres of Scottish farm land is being offered for sale by British Coal, in one of the last asset sales by the former state-owned mining company. The 12 packages, including a mixture of farms, woodland, and upland grazing, are properties that tenants declined to buy when they were offered first refusal. Much of the land was acquired by the company either because of its opencast mining potential or in relation to underground mining.

PowerGen to build plant

POWERGEN is to build a £100 million combined heat and power (CHP) plant for Bruner Mond, the manufacturer of soda ash and alkali chemicals previously part of ICI. The plant, one of the largest CHP schemes in Britain, will generate 120 megawatts of power and 300-400 megawatts of steam for Bruner's Winnington complex in Cheshire. About 500 jobs will be created during construction of the plant, which is destined to begin operations by 1999.

Ready for take-off

THE first Boeing 777-200 to be powered by Rolls-Royce Trent 800 series engines enters service with Thai Airways International next month. The B777, the world's largest twinjet, will be used on regional routes within Asia. The inaugural model will shuttle between Bangkok, Hong Kong, and Seoul. Thai ordered eight 777-200s in June 1991, and has expressed interest in six stretched 777-300s. The B777 has a range of 5,500 miles and seats more than 350 passengers.

Goldsmiths seeks Jones bid answer

GOLDSMITHS Group, the jeweller where Jurek Piasecki, is chairman and chief executive, yesterday complained at the lack of progress with Signet's proposed sale of its H Samuel and Ernest Jones chains (Paul Durman writes).

Signet, the business formerly known as Ratners, put its UK jewellery chains up for sale in January. Goldsmiths, which first declared an interest in buying Ernest Jones three years ago, has submitted its bid, believed to be close to £280 million. Goldsmiths was reporting a 41 per cent increase in annual pre-tax profits to £4.5 million. Sales rose 18 per cent to £62.9 million.

A 3.3p final dividend increases the total 50 per cent to 4.5p.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.05	1.89
Austria Sch	16.91	15.41
Belgium Fr	49.48	45.18
Canada $	2.178	2.018
Cyprus Cyp£	0.749	0.694
Denmark Kr	9.34	8.54
Finland Mkk	7.83	6.98
France Fr	8.12	7.47
Germany Dm	2.42	2.21
Greece Dr	388.00	363.00
Hong Kong $	12.45	11.45
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1600	4.5300
Italy Lira	2497.00	2342.00
Japan Yen	177.60	161.60
Malta	0.581	0.536
Netherlds Gld	2.683	2.453
New Zealand $	2.38	2.16
Norway Kr	10.43	9.60
Portugal Esc	244.50	226.00
S Africa Rd	6.71	5.91
Spain Pta	197.00	184.00
Sweden Kr	10.76	9.96
Switzerland Fr	1.96	1.78
Turkey Lira	113599.	105599.
USA $	1.624	1.494

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Aktiebolaget SKF will be held at SKF Kristinedal, Byfogdegatan 4, Göteborg, Sweden, at 3.30 p.m. on Thursday April 25, 1996.

Annual General Meeting

Notice of attendance

For the right to participate at the meeting, shareholders must be recorded in the shareholders' register kept by the Securities Register Centre (VPC AB) by Monday April 15, 1996 and must notify the company before noon on Monday April 22, 1996, preferably in writing, otherwise by telephone, of their intention to attend. (AB SKF, S-415 50 Göteborg, Tel. +46 31 37 26 52) giving details of name, address, telephone and registered shareholding. Where representation is being made by proxy, the proxy form shall be sent before the date of the meeting. Shareholders whose shares are registered in the name of a trustee through the Trustee Department of a bank must have the shares registered temporarily in their own name in order to take part in the meeting. Any such re-registration for the purpose of establishing voting rights shall take place by Monday April 15, 1996. This means that the shareholder should give notice of his/her intention to the trustee in plenty of time before that date. A re-registration fee will normally be payable to the trustee.

Agenda

1. Opening of the AGM.
2. Election of chairman of the meeting.
3. Drawing up and approval of register of voters.
4. Election of minutes-checkers.
5. Confirmation that meeting has been correctly called.
6. Presentation of annual report and auditors' report as well as consolidated financial statements and consolidated auditors' reports.
7. Resolution on adoption of the income statements and balance sheets and consolidated income statements and consolidated balance sheets.
8. Resolution that the directors of the board and managing director are discharged from liability.
9. Resolutions regarding distribution of profits.
10. Determination of number of board members and deputy members.
11. Determination of number of auditors and deputy auditors.
12. Determination of directors' fees.
13. Determination of auditors' fees.
14. Election of board members and deputy members.
15. Election of auditors and deputy auditors.
16. Recommendations on amendment to articles of association.

The board recommends the insertion of the following text under § 6 of the articles of association:

"Should the Board decide that a cash issue of 'A' shares and 'B' shares be made, the owners of 'A' and 'B' shares shall have the right to subscribe to new shares of the same type in proportion to the number of shares already held (primary preferential rights). Shares which are not subscribed with primary preferential rights shall be offered to all shareholders for subscription (sub-sidiary preferential rights). If there are insufficient shares to cover such applications according to subsidiary preferential rights, such shares shall be allocated among the shareholders in proportion to the number of shares already held and when this is not possible, through lottery.

Should the Board decide to make a cash issue solely of 'A' or 'B' shares, all shareholders, regardless of whether their holding is of 'A' or 'B' shares, shall have the right to subscribe to the new shares in proportion to their existing holding.

The foregoing shall not imply any limitation of the power to decide on the cash issue with deviation from the shareholders' preferential rights.

By increasing the share capital through a rights issue, new shares will be floated of each type in proportion to the already existing number of shares of the same type. In this context old shares of a given type will carry the right to new shares of the same type. The foregoing shall not imply any limitation of the power through a rights issue of shares, after due changes in the articles of association, to issue shares of a different type."

(The Board's draft resolution has been made since the Swedish Companies Act now prescribes that, companies where shares of different types have been issued, for example with different voting rights, shall include by the end of June, 1996 a stipulation in the articles of association regulating the right to subscribe in connection with new share issues.)

17. Other business

Dividend

The Board of Directors proposes a dividend for the financial year 1995, of 5 kronor 25 öre per share. It is recommended that shareholders with holdings recorded on April 30 1996 be entitled to receive the said dividend. Subject to acceptance by the Annual General Meeting, it is expected that the Securities Register Centre will send out notices of payment to recorded shareholders and listed depositaries on May 8 1996.

Election of Board members

Shareholders, who together represent somewhat more than 60 % of the votes for the total number of Company shares, have informed the Company that they recommend for re-election Ordinary Board Members Anders Scharp, Gösta Bystedt, Mauritz Sahlin, Giovanni Mario Rossignolo, Per-Olof Eriksson, Sune Carlsson, Michael Treschow and Peter Augustsson.

Göteborg, April 1996

Aktiebolaget SKF
(publ)

The Board of Directors

SKF

THE SUNDAY TIMES

NEW LABOUR'S CREEPY, KOOKY FAMILY

The movie The Addams Family was a parody of the two-kids-and-a-grandma family unit. Mischief was their pleasure but they conformed strangely to the saccharine norm. So it is with Tony and Cherie Blair and their extended family, suggests **Matthew Parris** who turns his critical wit to cast New Labour as a dynasty out of step. Find out on Sunday, in the **Magazine**, who among Labour's modernisers the Columnist of the Year likens to Uncle Fester, Lurch and the Addams children, Wednesday and Pugsley

THE SUNDAY TIMES Magazine
The Bambi Family Values
Why New Labour gives Matthew Parris nightmares

PLUS: TINA TURNER ON TOUR

She's 56 and a grandmother. But far from hanging up her microphone she's turning up the heat. We follow Tina Turner on the eve of her gruelling world tour

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

[illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

☐ The bar to Allied's demerger ☐ Seller's market for London hotels ☐ Job cuts the key to financial services optimism

Great Dane in a manger

☐ A RATHER cruel analysts' note on Allied Domecq last week had the company in the corporate equivalent of negative equity; the break-up value of the dog of the drinks sector is actually less than the current share price.

This may or may not be true, but it is a measure of the market's exasperation with Allied since the last big deal, the £1 billion purchase of Pedro Domecq in 1994. This coincided neatly with the collapse of the Mexican market, the most promising for Domecq, and it has all been downhill from there, not least for the share price.

An equal disaster has been the joint venture between Carlsberg, the Danish brewer, and Tetley, Allied's brewing arm. This was launched in 1993 under the soubriquet "probably the best merger in the world," a clever remark that has come back to haunt the two in the same way that John Gummer must now deeply regret the infamous hamburger photos.

Allied has been desperate to sell. The sticking point has been the Danes. Whether out of a misguided belief in the virtues of the venture or mere corporate pride, they have been refusing to pass on their half-stake to any buyer of Allied's half. One such, Whitbread, has already walked away. That can only leave Bass, because the creepy consolidation that has cut through the brewing industry in recent years means there are now only four big producers, and the fourth, Scottish & Newcastle, is still replete from swallowing Courage.

As to the Danish question, the latest solution is apparently for Carlsberg to take a minority stake in the merged venture. This will not appeal to Sir Ian Prosser, chairman and chief executive at Bass and not a man keen on dissenting minority voices, but it might have to do. The competition authorities should be the real problem.

By all that is decent, Bass should be blocked from doing a deal that gives it almost 40 per cent of British brewing. S&N/Courage created a 30 per cent force, and that caused enough howls, not least from the likes of Bass. Another merger would create a triopoly controlling four fifths of brewing, Whitbread coming in third with a distant 14 per cent and in any event more concerned these days with retailing.

But the ways of the Office of Fair Trading are hard to predict. The OFT is keener these days on interfering with cosy deals between brewers and pubs, so an unwinding of the agreements for Carlsberg-Tetley to supply Allied's pubs might suffice.

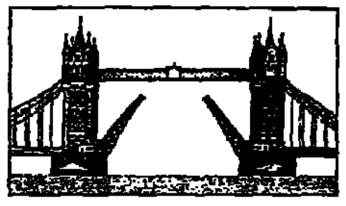
This would leave the way clear for a full demerger of Allied. Pubs and restaurants go one way, doughnuts and ice cream the other. At the core is a collection of drinks brands such as Beefeater gin and Teacher's whisky that the big international drinks groups would die for. But the absence of any firm price mooted for the Carlsberg-Tetley deal suggests that even this agreement is still some way off.

No room at the inn for discounts

☐ THE good news is that the bombs in London have not put off visitors to the capital's hotels and triggered a downslide in the tourist season just getting under way. The bad news is that the hoteliers can now charge pretty much what they want.

London hotels, like the big airlines, are now enjoying occupancy rates in excess of 80 per cent. This might not sound too great, almost one empty room in four. In fact, bearing in mind the inevitable "dead nights" like Sunday when no one wants to stay, this means that when you ring up for a room for the night, your chances are slim unless you are booking well ahead.

PENNINGTON



Gone are the days of massive discounts, except in the provinces where the business trade is becoming cannier. Instead the London hotels are even taking measures to discourage the deeply unprofitable charabanc trade, whereby large chunks of the hotel are let out at cheap rates to wagonloads of foreign tourists, preferring to concentrate instead on the individual visitor.

All the above is taken from the 10th round-up of the world hotel trade from the broker Kleinwort Benson, now something of an annual treat. Kleinwort's leisure team this time has attempted to calculate the incalculable, and find an index by which the performance of wildly differing hotels groups can be compared. This should allow the way management perform to be separated from and measured against the value of the hotel assets they are managing.

The first conclusion thrown up is that the Savoy is an excellent collection of hotels, badly run. So far, so obvious; but it is a useful proof of Kleinwort's mathematics. The second is a "could do better" mark against two of the second division operators, debt-plagued Queens Moat and already deeply unloved Vaux.

The third is that Granada knew what it was doing when it paid so much for Forte. The latter's hotels, now Granada's, have underperformed their potential and will improve once the low grade White Hart chain is sold to Regal shortly. The signs are that Granada is not hurrying to sell the quality hotels it is pledged to dispose of; with two good years at least left for hotels, this looks like another shrewd move.

Joys of spring and redundancy

☐ PROSPERITY without jobs may be a rallying cry of the whingeing classes. In financial service businesses, such as banks, building societies and insurance companies, it is an understatement. The latest CBI/Coopers & Lybrand survey shows the highest confidence rating for two years, yet 46 per cent of firms plan to axe jobs and only 10 per cent aim to recruit.

Many of these lost people are to be replaced by computers in the drive to cut costs. Even training spending, previously a growth area, is now coming under the knife.

From pensions to securities trading, domestic competition is the toughest in memory. This should be good for customers, but only if — some if — managers put service before the bottom line. Even if business grows, firms need to cut costs. Not that confidence is always justified. At New Year, a net 48 per cent expected better days. Only a net 5 per cent actually saw more business in the first quarter.

Building societies, supposedly the staidest of folk, are actually the most volatile. Year after year, their optimism outshines others, only to descend into deepest gloom when it is not realised. After a near-universal upturn in the past quarter, they are understandably the greatest optimists now. Sadly, however, their eyes shone in five of the past six springs as Easter nesting approached. This time, perhaps they will avoid that seasonal thud into depression.

Moving home loans

☐ THIS is all getting too silly. The West Bromwich is now offering a nought per cent mortgage, which should mean that they give you the money to buy the house and you get to keep 25 years of profits. Nice deal, even in this housing market; but it is, of course, just another marketing gimmick. The West Brom has not found some miraculous way of reversing the gap between what it lends at and what it pays out; the cheap entry for new borrowers will simply be paid for by those whose mortgages are more than six months old.

BET and Rentokil in war of words

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE £1.9 billion takeover battle between Rentokil and BET intensified yesterday after BET issued a revised profit forecast of £146 million, an increase of 32 per cent on last year.

But Rentokil immediately hit back, describing the forecast, made only three days after BET had confirmed the original forecast in a letter to shareholders, as "a farce".

The new figure is £4 million more than the previous estimate of £132 million made on March 21. BET also predicted that earnings per share would amount to 11.1p, a rise of 35 per cent, while dividend cover would stand at 2.2 times.

John Clark, chief executive of BET, said: "The bid price stands at less than 20.5 times the sector multiple and recognises neither our 20 per cent dividend forecast for next year, nor 35 per cent earnings growth. With this information, it is an easy decision for BET shareholders to dismiss the offer."

But Clive Thompson, Rentokil chief executive, said: "The decision to issue a new forecast further undermines BET's credibility. There is no information as to where this late contribution to BET's profit has come from. There are still no details about the company's cashflow or key items such as costs and exceptionals."

BET responded by describing the original profit forecast as "over-cautious". It added that it was receiving a good response from institutional investors as it continued a round of meetings.

BET's share price closed up 2p at 205.5p, a record high. Rentokil's share price rose 3p to 362p, valuing the paper offer at 201.6p a share.

BET's forecast is almost certainly its last defence shot as under takeover rules it cannot issue new information after Friday. Rentokil has a further week to raise its offer.

Jobs will go in MAI and United merger

BY ERIC REGULY

UNITED News and Media, which yesterday reported its last set of annual results, said the cost of its merger with MAI, the money-broking and media group, would be inflated by some redundancy charges.

The merger went unconditional on Tuesday and the companies' head offices are already being integrated. A spokesman said: "Everthing will be looked at. Obviously, there will be job losses."

United said that the new group would review its portfolio to achieve greater focus on areas of strength. The speculation, played down by United, is that the *Daily Express* and the *Sunday Express* might be headed for the auction block. In the year to December 31, the newspapers reported an operating profit of £7.3 million, against a profit of £30.8 million in the previous period.

Group operating profits increased 1 per cent to £145.8 million on turnover that rose marginally to £1.07 billion.

After exceptional items and restructuring charges taken at its national and regional newspapers, the pre-tax profit was £104.5 million, against a profit of £138 million. Earnings per share were 28p, compared with 39.5p.

A second interim dividend of 15.25p, making a total of 23p, unchanged from 1994, is to be paid on April 26.

Laird ready to carry on investing

LAIRD, the automotive engineering group, has said that it will continue to invest heavily in its businesses in spite of a slowdown in its markets in the first few months of the current year (Carl Mortished writes).

Laird's pre-tax profit rose 39 per cent, to £66.1 million, last year, when the company invested £108 million in organic growth and acquisitions.

John Gardiner, chairman, said that 1995 was a record year, but the unusually strong start was followed by "lower levels of activity in the second half, which have continued in the opening months of 1996".

Turnover rose by 21 per cent, to £888 million. The dividend rises to 12p, from 11.3p, after earnings of 34.4p (26.3p).

Tempus, page 28

Bid costs will hit Lloyds Chemists

BY ERIC REGULY

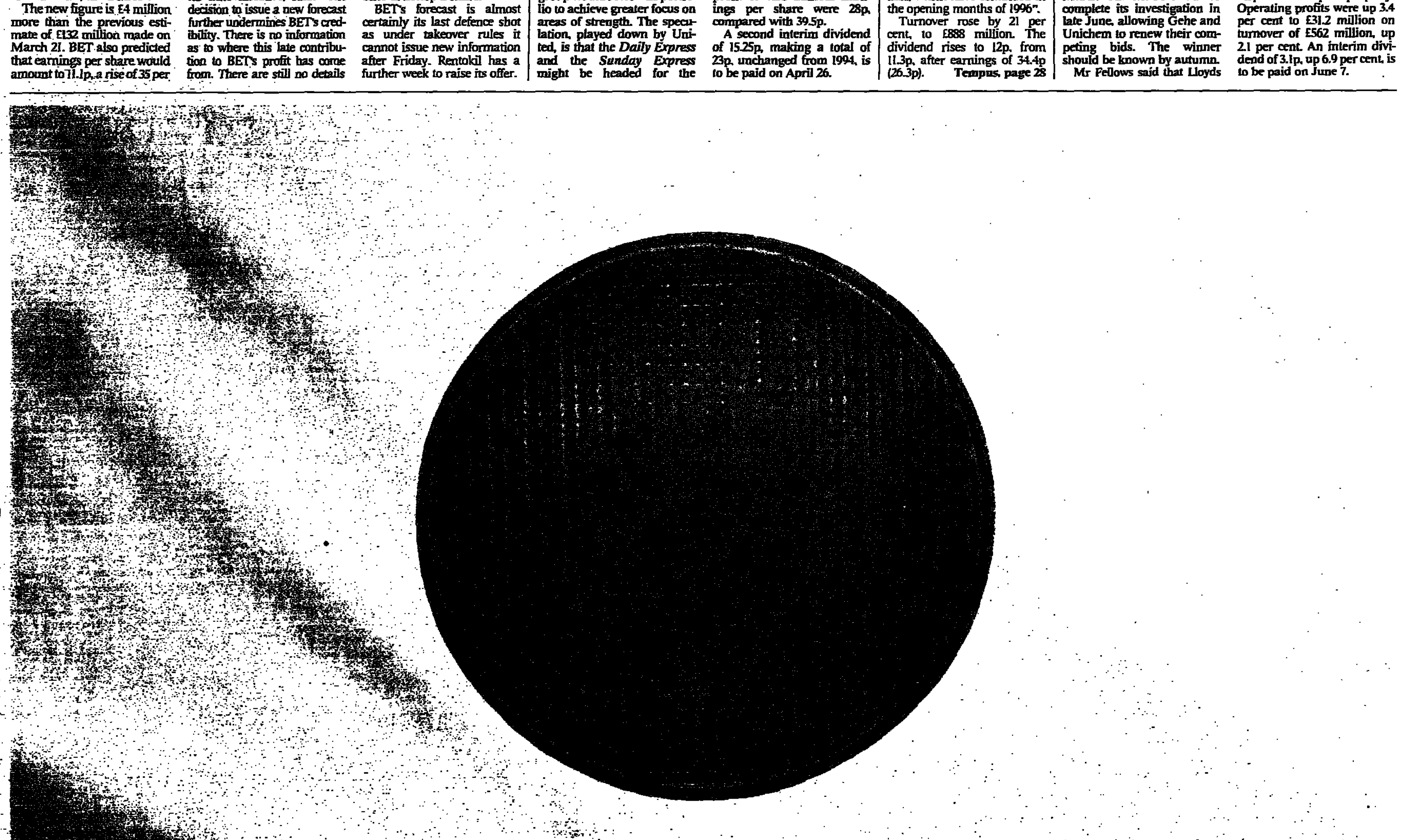
LLOYDS Chemists said yesterday that second-half earnings would suffer because of the costs associated with the takeover bids launched by Gehe of Germany and UniChem.

Jonathan Fellows, finance director, said fees for the auditors, lawyers and merchant bankers would total £4 million to £5 million this year.

Both bids lapsed after their referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in March. The MMC is due to complete its investigation in late June, allowing Gehe and Unichem to renew their competing bids. The winner should be known by autumn.

Mr Fellows said that Lloyds had ceased converting Health and Beauty stores in light of the company's uncertain future. Only 37 of the 180 outlets have been refurbished and, as a result, sales in the division have been falling.

The company reported pre-tax profits of £25.8 million in the half year to December 31, down 2.7 per cent on the previous period. Earnings per share were 13.33p, against 14.04p. The downturn was because of losses on the disposal of surplus property. Operating profits were up 3.4 per cent to £31.2 million on turnover of £562 million, up 2.1 per cent. An interim dividend of 3.1p, up 6.9 per cent, is to be paid on June 7.



IT DOESN'T MEAN STOP. IT MEANS GO.

The one thing that drives the really successful businessman forever forward is determination.

Determination to seek out and exploit new opportunities wherever and whenever they arise.

Nothing deters the really successful businessman. Nothing it seems, except Japan.

Quite uncharacteristically some businessmen who usually spot the smallest opportunity at a thousand miles have developed a blind spot when it comes to the second biggest economy in the world.

Which is where Action Japan comes in. Set up by the DTI it helps focus UK business eyes on what is undoubtedly the major opportunity of the moment.

This year alone, exports to Japan from the United Kingdom are up 26%. (We said the opportunity was being missed by some, not by all.) The potential, however, is even bigger. Because Japan is changing.

Japanese ministries are busy cutting red tape. A consumer revolution is boosting demand for imported goods. At the same time, because of the strength of the Yen, Japanese manufacturers are actively seeking lower cost alternatives to internal suppliers.

So the scene is set. Without question, Japan really is the land of the rising business opportunity. And the answer to how you best exploit that opportunity is Action Japan.

Action Japan will provide bespoke help to any business wanting to develop in Japan.

Experienced businessmen, with first hand knowledge of the country, have been seconded from industry to work with a team from the DTI.

Together we will help you analyse the market opportunities and, crucially, help to identify the important contacts you need to get business rolling.

Action Japan has also drawn up a calendar of special events, trade shows and missions to Japan. All specially designed to help ease the way into the Japanese market. The businessman determined to do business in Japan should call Action Japan now on: 0171-215 8531.

Because the lights have definitely changed to green.

ACTION JAPAN
partnership for profit

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Sainsbury boost as petrol price war runs out of fuel

EVIDENCE that the petrol price war may nearing its end gave a boost to the big supermarket chains which have been at the sharp end of the forecourt battle.

The news that **J Sainsbury** was adding a couple of pence to its petrol prices lifted the shares 4p to 371p. The group said it had made the move after an easing of conditions in the marketplace. Other suppliers are now expected to follow suit. **Argyll**, the Safeway group, rose 6½p to 316p, while **Tesco** rose 7½p to 274p. **Frost Group**, the petrol station retailer, also stood out with a rise of 19p to 143p.

The impact of the petrol price war on the supermarket chains has forced analysts to downgrade their estimates for the current year. Brokers are now hoping the companies can make up the shortfall.

The rest of the equity market traded in narrow limits for much of the day with investors taking a cautious view ahead of tomorrow's US non-farm payroll numbers. A sharp opening fall in the Dow Jones industrial average failed to have much impact on the FT-SE 100 index which closed 3.4 easier at 3,725.1.

Turnover reached almost 1 billion shares swollen by bed and breakfast deals designed to establish losses ahead of the tax year end.

Allied Domecq rose 3p to 500p amid reports that **Bass**, up 5p at 767p, is ready to buy its troublesome Carlsberg-Tetley joint venture. Brokers say the business could be worth anything between £200 million and £500 million.

Pearson, the media group that includes the *Financial Times*, Alton Towers and Penguin books, rose 23p to 701p as almost 5 million shares were traded. Cazenove, the company's broker, has reiterated its buy stance. Pearson has been the subject of bid speculation in recent months as brokers attempt to put a figure on its break-up value.

British Airways failed to benefit from news of a surge in the number of passengers carried, with the price finishing 3p easier at 534p. Passenger traffic grew 13.1 per cent during March on the previous year, boosted by a 7 per cent rise in capacity. BA said the figure was achieved with the help of outward bound traffic associated with the Easter holiday.

There was no sign of the much-mooted takeover bid for **Thorn EMI**, with profit taking leaving the price 38p down at £18.05. Even so, it remains more than 100p up on the past two days as the speculators continue to dream of a bid from the likes of Sony, the Japanese electronics and leisure group.

News of the agreed bid by Siebe for **Unitech** sent shares of the electronics components group 29p higher at 703p. Siebe is offering 0.8 new shares for every Unitech, equivalent to 715p a share. There is a cash alternative of 659p a share. The deal values Unitech at £520 million.

The move came as little surprise to City speculators after last month's purchase by Siebe of Electrowatt's 25 per cent stake in Unitech. **Siebe** finished 23p cheaper at 874p. **BET** firmed 2p to 205½p as it continued to try to fend off the unwanted £1.9 billion bid from Rentokil. In addition to forecasting a 20 per cent increase in the dividend during the current year, the group is increasing its pre-tax forecast by a further £4 million to £146 million. That compares with £111 million last time.

Rentokil has extended its offer, but is expected to come back with an increased offer of up to 215p a share. City speculators say this should be enough to tip the bid in Rentokil's favour. **Rentokil** closed 3p firmer at 362p.

United Newspapers and Media, publisher of the *Daily Express*, proved to be as good as its word with pre-tax profits bang on target. The final figure of £138 million was in line with the forecast made at the time of its proposed merger earlier this year with MAI and was achieved in spite of a £17 million rise in the cost of paper. The shares rose 21p to 666p.

Lloyds Chemists slipped 2p to 476p after weighing in with a first-half dip to £25.8 million after losses on disposals totalling £1.1 million. The group is the target of competing bids from UniChem and Gehe, the German pharmaceutical group, which have been put on hold by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. **UniChem** was 1p firmer at 256p.

A disappointing set of full-year figures and evidence of a slowdown in 1996 left **Laird Group** nursing a fall of 6p at 428p. The group said competition had intensified and gave warning that the reduction in activity seen in the second half had extended into 1996.

By construst, **McKechnie**, the engineer, was confident about prospects as the shares responded with a rise of 2p to 490p. Pre-tax profits in the first six months failed to match expectations, rising 7 per cent to £21.6 million.

Vymura, the soft furnishings group, fell 7p to [illegible] in response to a £1.4 million shortfall in full-year pre-tax profits at £2.4 million. The group blamed falling demand and higher raw material costs.

Shares of **Hewden-Stuart**, the plant hire group, fell 9p to 148p after a gloomy meeting with analysts. Accompanying full-year figures revealed pre-tax profits of £36.2 million, in line with City forecasts.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**. A late rally enabled prices to close above their lows for the day. This was achieved in the face of sharp falls among US treasury bonds.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt touched a low of £105 [illegible] before rallying to finish just a couple of ticks easier at £105 [illegible] in thin trading that saw just [illegible] contracts completed.

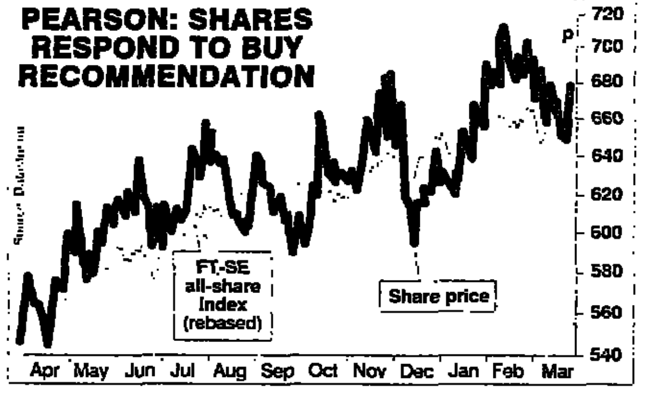
Among conventional issues, Treasury 7 per cent 2001 was a couple of ticks lighter at £97 [illegible], while at the longer end Treasury 8 per cent 2021 was five ticks down at £97 [illegible].

☐ **NEW YORK**: Wall Street stocks remained weaker after a sharp opening fall, analysts said. The Dow Jones industrial average was 5.06 points down to 5,666.62 at midday.

Vymura's Terry Langstroth and Tom Smail saw shares fall

Note the performance of Saltire, the mini-conglomerate that used to trade as Cannon Street Investments. The shares rose another ½p to 16p on turnover of almost 800,000 shares. That stretches the week's gain to 2½p leading to suggestions that Tom Long, the chairman, may be close to completing a significant deal.

PEARSON: SHARES RESPOND TO BUY RECOMMENDATION



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones [illegible]
S&P Composite [illegible]

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average [illegible]

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng [illegible]

Amsterdam:
EOE Index [illegible]

Sydney:
AO [illegible]

Frankfurt:
DAX [illegible]

Singapore:
Straits [illegible]

Brussels:
General [illegible]

Paris:
CAC-40 [illegible]

Zurich:
SKA Gen [illegible]

London:
[illegible]

RECENT ISSUES

[illegible]

RIGHTS ISSUES

[illegible]

FALLS

[illegible]

Closing Prices Page 32

TEMPUS

Crumbling rock

[illegible] and reliability, Northern Rock Building Society is easily [illegible]. The Newcastle-upon-Tyne mortgage lender took one look at the [illegible] crowding up to the bar in [illegible] packed its bags and [illegible].

Northern Rock has trotted out the usual [illegible] floating, releasing [illegible] and greater freedom to [illegible] in the end, however, [illegible] Northern Rock felt threatened. [illegible] its strength. Back in [illegible] the society was prom[illegible] with a return on [illegible] per cent and and a [illegible] per cent range [illegible] to learn about [illegible] lending operation.

The business is also growing rapidly with 8 per cent of new business last year compared with its 4 per cent market share. Without protection, Northern Rock's days were numbered and, thanks to some helpful legislation, building societies have a more secure future as banks than as mutuals, for five anyway.

Northern Rock claims no plans to diversify, but that leaves the ultimate question of whether its members are better off with shares. In conversion, Northern Rock seeks to avoid the confused strategy of some societies that reward members with cheaper mortgages at the expense of bottom line profit. But confusing business strategy with defence tactics is also a mistake: there is little point to floating Northern Rock shares if their value is not allowed to reflect their worth to a bidder. It also gives less incentive to the Northern Rock board.

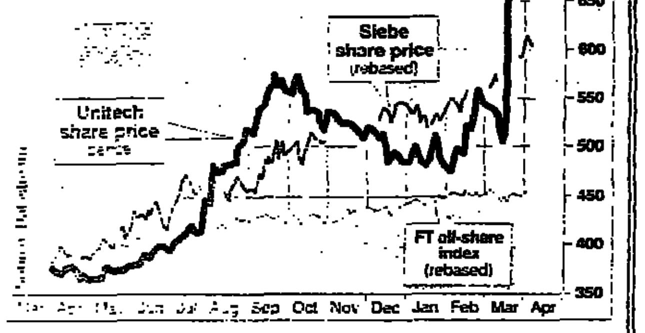
Siebe

Siebe's share price [illegible] after the announcement of a £520 [illegible] agreed bid for Unitech [illegible] there is little in [illegible] a tempo[illegible] [illegible] of Unitech [illegible] last month. [illegible] mixed paper [illegible] of the cost [illegible] dilution of earnings this year. There is even a reasonable chance that the merged profits combined with up to £16 million in savings will leave Siebe quids in.

There is little wrong in the strategy which in a single deal gives Siebe large exposure to a market in rapid expansion. Unitech is a leader in power control as demand, especially for power packs for mobile phones, continues to surge worldwide. Siebe also obtains access to Eastern markets through Unitech's 50.6 per cent stake in Nemic Lambda.

Such deft footwork means that Siebe shares should continue their upward climb and yesterday's signs of indigestion should soon clear.

SIEBE'S POWER PLAY



Laird

[illegible] 17 per cent [illegible] secured a large share of a specialist market, refuting the argument that only big companies can survive in this [illegible]. However, Laird is a cautious company and has made big strides in diversifying away from the automotive sector, preparing itself for the next downturn with investments in the building sector and metal casings for the personal computer industry. A discount of 17 per cent to the market average for this year's earnings seems excessive for a company that has so far always paid its dividend on the day.

Hewden Stuart

SIR Matthew Goodwin left Hewden Stuart on a high note when he bowed out last year predicting "you ain't seen nothing yet".

The optimism seems to have left the plant hire group at the same time as its long-serving chairman. Sir Matthew was scarcely out the door before the construction industry slid back into the doldrums. Severe February weather got the year off to a bad start, but Hewden fears the underlying problems will last longer. It will do well to improve on last years' £36.3 million profit.

Hewden Stuart has strengths: strong management, market leadership and a commitment to carry on investing in its business, regardless of fluctuations in short-term profits.

But when times are tough, the company remains vulnerable to small competitors who are prepared to cut rates for basic plant such as dumpers, rollers, mixers and diggers. Attempts to enforce price leadership are unlikely to prove successful.

Eventually, investment in Britain's infrastructure will resume — but perhaps not before the next election. Until then, the shares — down 9p at 148p yesterday — offer little excitement.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

May	980-976	Jul	1016-1014
Jul	998-997	Sep	unq
Sep	1018-1017	Dec	[illegible]
Dec	987-980		
Mar	991-990		
May	1002-1001	Volume:	8025

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	1851-1849	Jan	1795-1789
Jul	1819-1818	Mar	1766-1765
Sep	1814-1813	May	1745-1735
Nov	1808-1805	Volume:	4162

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	327.3-26.8
Spot: 407.0		Mar	318.8-18.3
May	404.6-03.5	May	316.8-13.9
Aug	378.4-78.0	Aug	unq
Oct	339.0-38.0	Volume:	2014

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 2

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	115.91	172.19	107.17
(+/-)	-20.45	+16.09	+10.48
Eng/Wales:	114.05	172.92	106.58
(+/-)	-23.64	+15.41	+11.40
(%)	+33.0	-16.0	+161.0
Scotland:	139.06	167.38	109.42
(+/-)	+25.31	+16.69	+10.91
(%)	+81.0	-51.0	+300.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	20.85	-0.25
Brent 15 day (May)	20.00	-0.10
Brent 15 day (Jun)	18.95	-0.05
W Texas Intermediate (May)	22.30	-0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	20.70	n/c

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 210 (+1)	O: 212 (+1)
Gasoil EEC	197 (+4)	198 (+3)
Non EEC 1H Apr	196 (+6)	198 (+6)
Non EEC 1H May	190 (n/c)	192 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	109 (+1)	111 (+1)
Naphtha	195 (+3)	200 (+7)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Apr	192.00-92.25	Jul	163.25-63.50
May	176.00-76.25	Aug	161.25-61.50
Jun	167.75-68.00		Vol: 14169

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	20.03-20.05	Aug	17.63-17.67
Jun	18.86-18.88	Sep	17.38-17.43
Jul	18.10-18.12		Vol: 25148

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	125.30	May	112.50
Jul	127.95	Sep	107.50
Sep	112.75	Nov	109.50
Nov	114.75	Jan	111.50
Jan	116.55	Mar	113.50
Volume: 486		Volume: nil	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	169.9	169.5
May	170.0	170.0
Jun	unq	225.0
		Volume: 85

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

May 102.25-102.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 96	1480	1450	1476
May 96	1392	1375	1392
Jul 96	1295	1280	1290
Oct 96	1320	1320	1333
Vol: 47 lots		Open interest: 4492	

Index 1454 +5

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2483.0-2485.0	2476.0-2478.0	1590275
Lead ($/tonne)	795.00-797.00	780.00-782.00	279550
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1044.5-1045.0	1067.5-1068.5	609950
Tin ($/tonne)	6350.0-6360.0	6387.0-6388.0	24100
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1595.0-1596.0	1627.0-1628.0	1664475
Nickel ($/tonne)	8020.0-8030.0	8120.0-8130.0	69036

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Alld Dom	460	37½	43½	53	11	8½	14½
(*496½)	500	7	18	31½	9½	26½	33
Argyll	300	12	19½	25	1½	12½	16½
(*309½)	330	0½	6½	12	20½	31½	34½
ASDA	100	8	11½	13½	0½	3	5
(*107)	110	2	6	8½	4½	7	9½
Boots	550	47	55½	61	0	7½	12½
(*596)	600	7½	22	31	10	27½	33½
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
BAA	500	33	42	51	0½	8	12½
(*531½)	550	2	14	24	20	31	36
Thames W.	550	26½	36½	43	2	17	21½
(*573½)	600	2½	12	19	28	47½	51
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

	Series	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Calls Dec	Puts Jun	Puts Sep	Puts Dec
Abby Nat	550	33½	44	55	14	24½	28
(*562½)	600	11½	21	32	43	52	59½
Amstrad	180	13½	20	23	9	13	14½
(*183)	200	5	11½	14½	20½	24	26
Barclays	700	47	60½	70	12½	24	29½
(*726)	750	19½	34	44½	36½	49½	53½
Blue Circ	330	20½	28	33½	10½	17	21
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

FT-SE INDEX (*3725)

[illegible]

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: [illegible]	Jun 96 Sep 96	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: [illegible]	Jun 96 Sep 96	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: [illegible]	Jun 96 Sep 96 Dec 96	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: [illegible]	Jun 96 Sep 96	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Long Gilt Previous open interest: [illegible]	Jun 96 Sep 96	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Japanese Govmt Bond	Jun 96 Sep 96	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: [illegible]	Jun 96 Sep 96	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Three month ECU Previous open interest: [illegible]	Jun 96 Sep 96	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: [illegible]	Jun 96 Sep 96	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: [illegible]	Jun 96 Sep 96	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks [illegible] Finance House [illegible]
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: [illegible] Low: [illegible] Week fixed: [illegible]
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible] 3 mth [illegible] Sell: 2 mth [illegible] 3 mth [illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:					
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open [illegible] close [illegible]					
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $393.70-394.00 **Close:** [illegible] **High:** [illegible]
Low: $393.35-393.85 **AM:** [illegible] **PM:** [illegible]

Krugerrand: $394.25-397.25 ([illegible])

Platinum: $405.15 (£265.30) **Silver:** $5.57 (£3.65) **Palladium:** [illegible]

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 3	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Copenhagen	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dublin	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Frankfurt	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lisbon	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Madrid	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Milan	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Montreal	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
New York	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oslo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paris	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vienna	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel Premium = [illegible]

DOLLAR RATES

[illegible]

OTHER STERLING

[illegible]

FT-SE VOLUMES

[illegible]

WALL STREET

[illegible]

	Apr 3 midday	Apr 2 close
Oracle	45⅞	47
Oryx Energy Co	14⅞	14⅞
Owens Corning	39⅞	39
PHH Corp	55	54⅞
PPG Industries	49⅞	50
PNC Bank	30⅞	30⅞
PP&L Res	24⅞	24⅞
Paccar Inc	49⅞	49
Pacificorp	21	21⅞
Pac Enterprises	26⅞	26⅞
Pac Gas & Elect	23⅞	23
Pac Telesis	34⅞	34⅞
Pall Corp	28	28⅞
Panhandle East	31	31⅞
Parker Hannifin	37⅞	37⅞
Penn Energy	26⅞	26⅞
Penney (JC)	49⅞	49⅞
Pennzoil	40⅞	40⅞
Pepsico	64⅞	64
Pfizer	72⅞	71⅞
Pharm & Upjhn	41⅞	41⅞
Phelps Dodge	68⅞	66⅞
Philip Morris	92⅞	90⅞
Phillips Pet	39⅞	40⅞
Pitney Bowes	48⅞	48⅞
Polaroid	44⅞	44⅞
PriceCostco	18⅞	18⅞
Procter & Gmbl	86	86⅞
Providian	45⅞	45⅞
Pub Serv E & G	27⅞	27⅞
Quaker Oats	33⅞	33⅞
Ralston Purina	66⅞	66⅞
Raychem Corp	65⅞	66
Raytheon	52⅞	52
Reebok Intl	27⅞	27⅞
Reynolds Metals	59⅞	59⅞
Rockwell Intl	58⅞	58⅞
Rohm & Haas	66⅞	66
Royal Dutch	144	143⅞
Rubbermaid	28⅞	28⅞
SBC Comms	50	50⅞
Safeco Corp	33⅞	33⅞
St Paul's Cos	54⅞	54⅞
Salomon Inc	37⅞	37⅞
Sara Lee Corp	33⅞	33⅞
Schering Plough	61⅞	60⅞
Schlumberger	82⅞	82
Seagram	33⅞	33⅞
Sears Roebuck	47⅞	47⅞
Shell Trans	52	51⅞
Sherwin Wllms	44⅞	44⅞
Skyline Corp	24⅞	24⅞
Snap-On-Tools	46⅞	46⅞
Southern Co	24⅞	24⅞
Sprint Corp	38	38⅞
Stanley Works	56⅞	56⅞
Sun Company	28	28⅞
Sun Microsys	45⅞	46⅞
Suntrust	71⅞	72⅞
Supervalu	31⅞	30⅞
Sysco Corp	33⅞	33⅞
TRW Inc	89	89⅞
TCC Inds	2⅞	2⅞
Tandem Comp	9	9
Tandy Corp	47⅞	47⅞
Teledyne	33⅞	33⅞
Temple Inland	46⅞	46⅞
Tenneco	57	56⅞
Texaco	86	86⅞
Texas Inst	51⅞	50⅞
Texas Utilities	41	41⅞
Textron	83	83
Time Warner	40⅞	41⅞
Times-Mirror A	40⅞	40
Timken	46⅞	46⅞
Torchmark	44⅞	45
Toys R Us	27	27⅞
Transamerica	77⅞	77⅞
Travelers	66	66
Tribune	66⅞	66⅞
Tyco Labs	36⅞	36⅞
UST Inc	32⅞	32⅞
UAL	214⅞	210
US Inds	21⅞	21⅞
USX Marathon	19⅞	19⅞
Unicom	27	27⅞
Unilever NV	135⅞	136
Union Camp	50	49⅞
Union Carbide	48⅞	49
Union Pacific	68⅞	69⅞
Unisys Corp	5⅞	5⅞
USAIR Group	18⅞	18⅞
USF&G Corp	15⅞	15⅞
US Life	29⅞	29⅞
United Tech	112	113⅞
Unocal Corp	33⅞	33⅞
VF Corp	54⅞	55⅞
WMX Tech	32⅞	32⅞
Wal-Mart Stores	22⅞	22⅞
Warner-Lambert	108⅞	108⅞
Wells Fargo	261	264
Westinghouse El	19⅞	19⅞
Weyerhaeuser	46⅞	47
Whirlpool	54⅞	54
Whitman	24	24⅞
Winn Dixie	33⅞	33⅞
Woolworth	15⅞	15⅞
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	58⅞	58⅞
Xerox	129	129
Yellow Corp	12⅞	12⅞

هكذا أمن الأمل

هكذا من الأصول

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Haynes loses global role

ALASDAIR HAYNES has stepped down as £500,000-a-year head of global equity derivatives at HSBC James Capel in what amounts to an April Fool's putsch. Haynes, who joined from UBS 18 months ago, was ousted on April 1, the day the firm added HSBC to its name. Capel insists the departure was "completely amicable", but admits to a falling-out over strategy. Haynes, it seems, wanted overall control of the 80-strong derivatives team, which spans operations from Hong Kong to New York. Capel wanted to run things on regional lines.

Isma poser

CAT fights can be expected at CIBC Wood Gundy, after the appointment of Martin Shaw as head of fixed income trading for Europe, who will report to Simon Ellen, head of global trading. Outside CIBC, both men play an active role within the International Securities Market Association. Inside information suggests trouble ahead as Isma regulations do not allow two committee members from the same company.

Question Time

GILLIAN SHEPHARD has turned tail on her decision to speak at the Institute of Directors annual conference on April 24. The Education and Employment Secretary has suddenly realised she has *Parliamentary Question Time* that afternoon, an event normally timetabled months in advance. Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, has stepped gallantly in to take centre stage alongside Sir Stanley Kalms, in defence of the motion that "EU member states should be free to regulate their own labour markets". The opposition, John Monks and Christopher Haskins, are trembling.

Shephard: double booked

THE quick-selling Aga Magazine *includes an adventurous recipe for its Home County readers. Slow-cooked beef, "a superb freezer standby".*

Dunblane gains

BIG hearts and pockets at the Headlam Group turned a spat with Albert E Sharp into a £1,000 charity donation. When Ian Kirkham, chief executive of the floor-covering distributors, agreed to sit at a black-tie table hosted by his stockbrokers it was with the intention of settling a wrangle over fees. Both protagonists were driving a hard bargain, but caught up in the spirit of generosity at the Coopers & Lybrand PLC awards, organised in association with *The Times*, they agreed to donate the fees to the Dunblane Fund.

Wall to wall

TOM SMAIL, chief executive of Vymura, says his 1840s Georgian house in Manchester is "wallpapered from floor to ceiling". Smail's wife, a former designer, insists they get someone in to redecorate at least every four years. For now, it's a vogue-ish subtle background with an "adventurous" border.

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW

The changing face of inflation worldwide

Several forces have put competitive markets in the ascendant, says Roger Bootle

Governments always make a mess of things. This is the financial markets' first working assumption. So their reaction to the widespread adoption throughout the world of published targets for very low rates of inflation has been one of scepticism or outright cynicism. That is why long-term interest rates are so high in relation to the currently low rates of inflation.

But when assessing the economic forecasts implied by financial markets it is useful for outsiders to employ another rule of thumb — the consensus is always wrong. All you then have to do is work out which way it is wrong.

Inflation has turned out much lower than the markets and most commentators have forecast for several years now. Much turns on what you think explains this. The orthodox answer — the one proferred by the Old Believers (aka the monetarists) — is that money supply growth was for a time weak. This led to weak demand and ultimately to low inflation.

Yet if that is all that has happened then the corollary is that once demand revives, inflation will pick up again. Moreover, money supply growth has recently picked up strongly and some voices are already calling for higher interest rates to head off the supposed inflationary danger. So the moral, if you believe this story, is mind your eye! Bad times are just around the corner — again.

This view that nothing in the world has changed strikes me as much too cosy for the Old Believers and much too gloomy for the rest of us. There will always be a level of unemployment and capacity utilisation where inflation re-emerges. But is it the same point as it was before? I think that there are good reasons to believe that it is now further off. Consider the evidence. In September 1992, a crisis in the ERM led several countries to devalue or depreciate their currencies — Finland, Sweden, Italy, Spain and Britain (later followed by the Irish Republic). The verdict of the so-called experts and of the financial markets was virtually unanimous — inflation in these countries would surge, wiping out the immediate gain in competitiveness, but leaving a lasting legacy of higher nominal interest rates, short and long.

But this view, so widely held, also proved to be blatantly wrong — another casualty of the events surrounding Black (Golden) Wednesday. In all of the countries that devalued, the result was the same. Inflation rose very little, the gain in competitiveness was sustained, and exports picked up.

Or think about unemployment. In the US, it has fallen to 5½ per cent and the inflation hawks are still waiting for the upsurge in wages. In the UK, it has fallen to 8 per cent and yet, contrary to nearly all the forecasts, the growth of average earnings has fallen.

In 1994-95, there was an upsurge of commodity prices that raised fears of a repeat of what had happened in the early 1970s. Again, the markets thought that it was the same old world. Again, they were wrong. The rise in costs was passed through the production process, but at each stage some of the impact was absorbed by profits. By the time it reached retail prices, there was litte effect. And there was no response from wages.

What can explain the apparent change in the behaviour of inflation? I believe that in recent years several forces have come together to put competitive markets in the ascendant. As a result, prices now respond to supply and demand rather than carrying on up regardless, as if on an escalator, and increases in costs are no longer passed on automatically without thought for the consequences. The changes even apply to wages. At long last, these are beginning to be determined on what can reasonably be called a labour *market*, as the power of organised labour has wilted.

Technological advance has contributed a good deal to this result. It has cut a swathe through traditional areas of employment and weakened labour power at the points where it used to be strongest. Moreover, the rapid pace of change and its threatening nature have combined to produce a climate of anxiety, not only among workers, but also among employers, who fear that their market position will be cut from under them.

Thanks to the rapid advances of dynamic countries, especially in the East, and the associated process of globalisation, businesses are now increasingly able to conduct a diversified production process on a global basis.

This undermines local monopoly positions, sweeps away producers with higher costs, and obliges the survivors to keep their costs under control to retain their position. Meanwhile, across the world, privatisation is reducing the size of the sectors where state ownership shields both workers and managers from market pressures. Does this mean that inflation cannot pick up in coming years? No. What happens to inflation will continue to depend on the overall level of demand as well as on the structural, cost factors that I emphasised above. But the relationships are now different. If we see a strong revival in the global economy over the next few years, then inflation will probably pick up in most countries, if only because of the likely rise in commodity prices. But because of the pressures of competition, particularly in the labour market, the increase in inflation is likely to be small by the standards of previous upturns.

But is a major world upturn on the cards? Even though it will pick up, the Japanese economy will continue to be held back by serious troubles in the financial system, while high costs and the strains imposed by trying to comply with the Maastricht treaty criteria will prevent anything but a moderate recovery in Germany and France. In these circumstances, inflation is unlikely to rise much in most of the industrial world and in some countries (for example, Britain) it may even fall.

The really tantalising prospects, however, are held out by what might happen when the global economy turns down again, even though that is probably a few years off. For if, as I expect, inflation has been held at close to the current level in the meantime, then a significant fall, caused by weaker demand, would take it into negative territory, bringing back conditions unseen in most countries since before the Second World War.

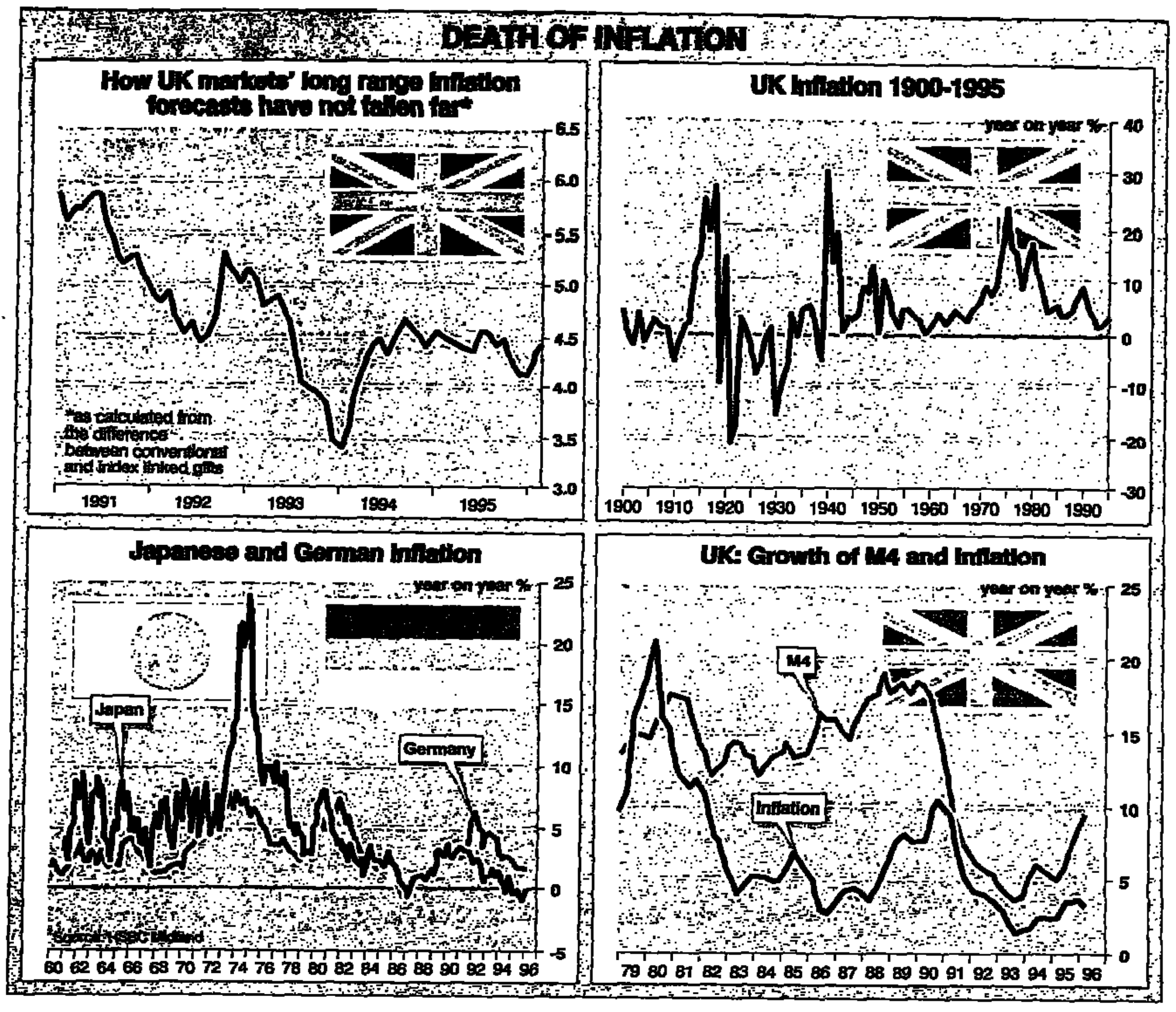
In Japan, of course, price deflation has already happened. The latest inflation figure in Japan is *minus* 0.4 per cent. People are often inclined to dismiss the significance of this by saying "Ah, but that's *Japan*" as though this somehow or other makes it irrelevant. It is true that price deflation in Japan has owed a good deal to the super-strong yen, but it is also true that the full effect of this has not been passed on directly in the form of lower prices in the shops because of Japan's rigid distribution system.

What makes this all the more striking is that until recent years, Japan was a country with relatively high inflation. In reaction to the oil shock of the early 1970s, Japanese inflation for a time exceeded 20 per cent. And in the 1960s, inflation was regularly higher in Japan than it was in *Britain*, never mind Germany. Moreover, there is a country close to home that could readily follow the Japanese example — Germany. With the inflation rate currently running at 1.6 per cent, a further sharp appreciation of the mark, combined with sluggish demand, could see German inflation in negative territory.

Price deflation is certainly not an immediate prospect for most countries in the industrial West, but it will, I believe, be a live prospect in response to the next bout of persistent weak demand. And when it happens, the financial markets will have to sit up and take notice. For the unthinking assumption shared by almost everyone that once inflation has reached 1-2½ per cent the risk is all upwards will then have been shattered. At that point, things will start to get interesting. And if economic policy and financial structures are completely unprepared for the change, things will also start to turn dangerous.

Roger Bootle is chief economist of the HSBC Group. His book, The Death of Inflation - Surviving and Thriving in the Zero Era, *will be published on April 17 by Nicholas Brealey Publishing.*

☐ Anatole Kaletsky is away



DEATH OF INFLATION

Prices react to supply and demand rather than going on up regardless

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Will a new era of passbook power dawn?

Robert Miller and Patrica Tehan on changing times for building societies

Accountability to tens of millions of building society members has never appeared to be high on the list of priorities for society board directors.

Far from practising what they preach, building society directors and senior management have, in many cases, run their organisations as personal fiefdoms. Over the past decade salaries have soared to almost match those of their publicly listed brethren and, in some cases, even beat them. And it was almost impossible, and still is, for ordinary outside members to be elected to a building society board.

But times are changing. Last month, the Treasury published a draft Bill whose ultimate aim is to usher in a new era of passbook power for building society members. Angela Knight, the Treasury minister with responsibility for societies, has given a clear warning that in return for greater business freedoms, such as being able to branch out into general household and motor insurance and to lend on a far wider range of property other than residential homes, societies will have to be far more accountable to their members. In the present bout of merger and conversion mania, societies are split on whether the proposed new Bill would have led to different corporate decisions being made.

Alliance & Leicester, for example, which plans a stock market flotation next spring, indicated that it might well have opted to remain as a mutual had the new powers been available two years ago. Others such as the Halifax insisted that the Bill would have made no difference.

Nor does the prospect of remaining as a mutual appear to have appealed to Northern Rock. Yesterday, as the society confirmed its intention to convert to a bank next year, its senior management outlined what it said were the three reasons for its decision.

For example, the society said that it wanted to escape from a "restrictive" legislative regime and gain freedom to raise capital in wholesale markets. This, according to Leo Finn, deputy managing director of Northern Rock, would improve the new bank's scope for profitable growth, for instance through the acquisition of mortgage books. Secondly, the formation of the Northern Rock Foundation would enable the society to help the wider north east of England community. Thirdly, the members would benefit through the free share distribution.

Although Northern Rock is seen as having ambitious plans to increase its share of the mortgage market, Christopher Sharp, managing director, said that the society had "no plans to diversify or to absorb another building society at the moment and none for the period of this conversion".

He denied that the society had, as recently as last year, said it was committed to mutuality. "No building society board can ignore conversion, it is written into the Act. But each must come up with a solution. It is not true that mutuality is over, this is not about mutuality it is about Northern Rock."

Mr Finn added that the board had weighed up all the possibilities. He said: "One of the problems with third parties is how they can run the business more efficiently. The only way they could do it is getting rid of large numbers of staff across the North East. We have to take into account the interests of all of our stakeholders. We do not have a duty to simply sell the society for the highest price. Our duty is to consider all aspects."

The societies that at present at least have opted to stay close to their roots, such as Bradford & Bingley, Britannia and Yorkshire, have belatedly started to return profits to their members in the form of lower home loan rates and higher returns on savings accounts.

Averaged out over a period of, say, ten years or so, members may well be better off than under one-off free share offers available under flotation plans.

But as yet it is the converters that appear to have stolen all the headlines. If there are benefits to mutuality, and there assuredly are, then societies should return more of the rewards to investors rather than into their own pockets.

In many cases, directors have run societies as personal fiefdoms

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Hiscox will pay £10m towards Lloyd's settlement

From the Chairman of Hiscox Holdings

Sir, The cry from action groups and from names and members' agents is for managing agents to pay more towards the settlement of litigation for the reconstruction and renewal (R&R) plan to succeed (Business Letters, March 29).

I thought it would help the debate if I disclosed that our managing agency, Hiscox Syndicates Ltd, has paid voluntarily or will pay voluntarily a total of £10 million in contributions as few names in our experience are aware of the contribution being made by the remaining businesses in the market.

Our managing agency is not being sued, therefore does not benefit directly from the settlement of litigation. It will, of course, benefit from the survival of Lloyd's.

The executives who own the agency are all names so are also paying their levies in that capacity.

The agents who ought to contribute have all gone out of business, so those that succeeded in surviving by making profits are now treated as the villains who ought to pay, despite the fact that the whole society depends utterly on the profits they are making for the current R&R payments and on their future profits for the health of the continuing market.

The divisions caused by those confrontations between name and agent, members' agent and managing agent, and between action groups and the rest of the society, bode ill for the future of Lloyd's. It is time for unity, for us to act as a society to put the problems behind us and to ensure that no more damage is done to names.

Many in the society have given, some more than others, and the best have given more than the worst. Names who have not honoured their commitments have benefited at the expense of names who have; there are many inequities but the R&R plan is the best and only solution we have to stop further grief being caused.

If names accept what is being offered, we can bring an end to the uncertainty and have at least no further agony: if they turn the offer down from a desire to squeeze more money from someone somewhere, all names who are not already bankrupt will truly suffer. The choice is simple.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT HISCOX,
Chairman,
Hiscox Holdings,
52 Leadenhall Street,
EC3.

Interested in business for the interest it pays

From Mr John Turner

Sir, Having just received notice over bank charges, we note that our bank takes interest off our business, but takes no interest in it.

Banks like to take an interest in a business with a view, once their interest is greater, to remove it. Our bank seems disinterested in the business and interested only in interest.

Interesting?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TURNER
(Partner,
AJT Environmental Consultants),
The Studio,
27 Brandling Place South,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

Big giveaway, what giveaway?

From George Thompson

Sir, In a report (*The Times* March 27) referring to the conversion of the Halifax Building Society to banking status Mike Blackburn, chief executive is quoted as saying "... this is possibly the biggest giveaway in terms of value in the history of the world."

Who does Mr Blackburn think he's kidding? The "giveaway" is merely a means of transferring the reserves to where they rightly belong: in the hands of the investing and borrowing members who have allowed their profits to remain in the society. It is unfortunate that some members will not benefit. Management of some of the societies wishing to remain mutual are realising this situation by paying investors more generous rates and charging less to borrowers. Hopefully, some means can be devised to ensure that those members who have contributed to the well-being of these societies will be recompensed for their loyalty.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE THOMPSON
20 Tilsworth Road
Beaconsfield, Bucks.

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German media group merges

By Eric Reguly

A NEW force in broadcasting has been formed through the merger of the television and radio interests of Bertlesmann, Germany's largest media group, and CLT of Luxembourg, whose businesses range from RTL, Germany's largest TV station, to Talk Radio in London.

The deal came after talks between CLT and BSkyB broke down. BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*. The two had discussed launching a digital satellite TV service in Germany and elsewhere on the Continent.

With Bertlesmann at its side, CLT hopes to fulfill that ambition quickly. Digital satellite TV is considered the next frontier in broadcasting.

BSkyB now plans to enter the market in partnership with Canal Plus and Havas, the large French media groups.

Meanwhile, DirecTV, the American direct-to-home broadcaster that is owned by Hughes Electronics, the satellite maker, is making plans to start a European service.

Bertlesmann will benefit from CLT's strength in free TV. CLT has extensive TV interests in Germany, The Netherlands and France as well as a stake in Channel 5, Britain's new terrestrial channel.

The merged company will be owned equally by Bertlesmann and Audiofina, a Luxembourg holding company that is CLT's parent company. Audiofina, in turn, is owned by Groupe Bruxelles Lambert of Belgium and Havas. Bertlesmann has agreed to pay Audiofina 30 billion Belgian francs (£634 million) to finance CLT's expansion into digital TV and other area. The deal requires approval from regulators in Germany and Brussels.

The company will have annual sales of about $3.3 billion and will control the German TV channels RTL, RTL2, Super RTL and Vox.

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Peter Curry, Unitech founder, left, who is to join the Siebe board after the takeover, with Barrie Stephens, chairman of Siebe, and Allen Yurko

Siebe buys Unitech in agreed £520 million takeover deal

By Alasdair Murray

SIEBE, the engineering group, has launched an agreed offer for Unitech, the electronics company, valuing the company at £520 million. It will establish Siebe as the world's largest supplier of transformers and control systems.

The bid has been expected since Siebe paid 590p a share last month Electrowatt, the Swiss utility, for a 25 per cent stake in Unitech. Siebe has since acquired 4.1 per cent more from Electrowatt at 610p. Siebe shares slipped 23p to 874p yesterday, while Unitech shares climbed 30p to 704p, just below the offer price of some 715p a share. Siebe insisted the takeover would not be earnings dilutive this year and said it should be earnings enhancing next year. Efficiency gains are expected by Siebe to yield cost savings of £5-10 million a year.

Allen Yurko, Siebe chief executive, said: "There are three clear synergies we can take care of immediately, including improved purchasing power and global distribution channels."

Siebe is offering 0.804 shares for every one Unitech share, valuing Unitech shares at about 715p. There is a cash alternative of 659.28p, while Unitech is also paying a second dividend of 5.93p in lieu of a final dividend.

The offer represents a 39 per cent premium over the Unitech share price on March 15, the day before Siebe first purchased a stake in Unitech.

The company said in total it holds acceptances from 30.3 per cent of the company, including a 1.2 per cent stake held by Unitech directors.

As a result of the Electrowatt purchase Siebe is paying an average price of 670p a share, or £488 million, for Unitech.

Peter Curry, founder and chairman of Unitech, will be invited to join the Siebe board. Mr Yurko confirmed that the other Unitech executive directors would also continue in the merged company.

The offer values Mr Curry's holding in Unitech at £4.4 million. He holds share options with a potential profit of £375,000. Jeff Hewitt, Unitech finance director, has options with a potential profit of £500,000, while Joshua Hauser, managing director of the power supplies division, could realise £670,000 from his share options.

Siebe said the deal would not result in any major restructuring and it had no plans for significant disposals.

Mr Yurko said: "The cornerstone of the deal is the electric powers control business which will clearly establish us as the global leader. But we are also effectively buying into East Asia and see significant opportunities in the heating, ventilating and air conditioning business."

Unitech holds a 50.6 per cent in Nemic Lambada, the Japanese controls group, which is valued at £273 million.

Daimler drops dividend after big loss

From a Correspondent in Stuttgart

DAIMLER-BENZ, the German industrial company, confirmed yesterday that it would not pay a dividend for the first time in 45 years after losing a record DM5.7 billion in 1995.

The loss was slightly lower than Daimler's earlier forecast of a DM6 billion shortfall, but it still came as a massive blow to the industrial conglomerate that in many ways symbolises corporate Germany. Daimler, which includes Mercedes Benz, the luxury carmaker, said that it had attempted to include every scrap of negative financial news in its 1995 books and believed the way was now clear for it to recover to clear profitability this year.

Jürgen Schrempp, the chairman, said: "The show of strength of the last few months showed that the board has taken measures to offer Daimler-Benz shareholders an attractive return."

Daimler's results were devastated in 1995 by DM5.1 billion restructuring costs. Of that, DM3.9 billion was the cost of restructuring at AEG AG and writing off Fokker NV, the Dutch aircraft manufacturer that collapsed into bankruptcy in February.

Daimler has been remolding AEG for several years and plans to absorb the remainder of the group after France's Alcatel Alsthom takes over AEG's systems and automation division.

Another DM1.2 billion was lost because of further rationalisation at Daimler.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Investors set for ICS claims as firms fail

THOUSANDS of investors can lodge compensation claims worth about £3 million after five firms were declared in default by the Investors Compensation Scheme (ICS). It is understood an executive from Financial Management International of London, which is alleged to have put investors into high risk investments and then "churned" portfolios to boost commission, had previous connections with two other crashed companies, Alexander Securities (£860,000) and London & Yorkshire Portfolio Management (£3.3 million).

Audley James & Co, of London, ran a telephone-based advisory and newsletter service providing share advice. It is alleged the firm failed to provide the advisory service. The other ICS companies include Macmillan Stewart Investments of Leicester, Anthony Slade, trading as Ashton Investments in Winchester and Paul Gilson trading as Money Matters Indepedent Financial Advisers of Stroud, Gloucestershire.

France Telecom change

THE French cabinet has approved a Bill on new regulations for the telecommunications sector that will end France Telecom's monopoly on January 1, 1998. The Bill will be debated in parliament next month, and if approved, French and foreign operators will be able to offer local and long-distance telephone services and other types of services to business, setting the prices they wish. But to do so, they will have to help finance a public service that will remain in France Telecom's hands.

United Industries up

UNITED INDUSTRIES, the UK engineering group, lifted pre-tax profits to £3.5 million last year, from £2.2 million in 1994, helped by an exceptional profit of £900,000 from selling the machinery division. Earnings per share rose to 1.36p, from 1.05p. The total dividend rises to 0.45p, from 0.32p, with a 0.3p final. The shares were unchanged at 16½p. The company expects further progress this year, although first-half performance is unlikely to match the first half of last year.

Fitzwilton advances

FITZWILTON, whose principal investments are in Wellworths, the Northern Ireland retail chain, and Waterford Wedgwood, lifted profits to Ir£15 million before tax last year from Ir£8.4 million in 1994. Earnings were Ir4.26p a share, compared with Ir2.18p. A final dividend of Ir1.3p a share lifts the total to Ir2.35p from 2.25p. Turnover improved to Ir£305.1 million from Ir£282.9 million. The company said trading so far this year was encouraging.

GWR loses bid battle

GWR, the UK commercial radio station group, has been outbid in its quest to acquire Radio New Zealand from the New Zealand Government. The winning bid, announced yesterday, was NZ$89 million (£39.7 million), which compared with GWR's offer of no more than NZ$85 million. GWR said it was aware of other opportunities in the Asia Pacific region. The company already owns New Zealand's Prospect Group, which has interests in radio stations in Auckland and Hamilton.

RBS lifts Spanish stake

THE Royal Bank of Scotland has acquired a further 0.89 per cent interest in Spain's Banco Santander for about £45 million it was announced yesterday. The Royal Bank's holding is now 4.2p per cent, with an option to acquire a further 0.65 per cent. Santander is the largest commercial banking group in Spain. At December 31, 1995, the bank had a net worth of 545 billlion pesetas (£2.88 billion). Profits last year were 146 billion pesetas before tax.

ACCOUNTANCY

Nine pillars of principle

Ian Percy outlines the ASB's new code for those in the auditing profession

In 1991 when the Auditing Practices Board was formed with its unique membership of half practitioners and half users, the first internal conference identified differences in understanding between users and practitioners on fundamentals of auditing. It became clear we had to encapsulate the principles of auditing in one statement and debate the role of auditors for the future to meet public expectations.

That led to the publication of the paper for public debate, *The Future Development of Auditing*. The subsequent paper, *The Audit Agenda*, published in 1994, drew together the responses from the *Future Development* and the Scottish Institute's research report, *Auditing Into The Twenty First Century*. All those papers included a section on enduring Principles of Auditing.

In 1995 APB published a new set of *Auditing Standards and Guidelines* conforming to UK practice and international auditing standards. It also published standards on going concern, fraud, laws and regulations, related parties and guidance on reporting on corporate governance. Now the UK is in a lead position internationally. This February APB published *The Audit Agenda — Next Steps* and the *Research Agenda*, issued to marshal the resources of academics and firms in developing future standards to meet public expectations in a stakeholder and technological environment.

A key to a quality corporate and public sector environment where external audit is critical to confidence in corporate governance, is a clear understanding of the principles that can be expected of the profession. We have therefore developed the Auditors' Code, for users of the audit process, auditors and aspiring auditors. It has nine principles:

Accountability
Auditors act for primary stakeholders, with regard to the public interest. The identity of primary stakeholders is determined by reference to that requiring audit: in companies, shareholders are the primary stakeholder.

Integrity
Auditors act with integrity, fulfilling their responsibilities with honesty, fairness and truthfulness. Confidential information obtained in the audit is disclosed only when required in the public interest, or by law.

Objectivity and independence
Auditors are objective, expressing opinions independently of the entity and its directors.

Ian Percy says objective auditing is fundamental to the APB

Competence
Auditors act with skill, derived from qualification, training and practical experience. This demands understanding of financial reporting and business issues and expertise in accumulating and assessing evidence for an opinion.

Rigour
Auditors approach their work with thoroughness and professional scepticism. They assess critically information and explanations obtained during their work and such extra evidence as they consider necessary for the audit.

Judgment
Auditors apply professional judgment, taking account of materiality in the context of the matters reported on.

Clear communication
Auditors' reports contain clear expressions of opinion and set out information necessary for a proper understanding of them.

Association
Auditors allow their reports to be included in documents with other information only if they think the extra information is not in conflict with the matters in their report and have no cause to think it misleading.

Providing value
Auditors add to reliability and quality of financial reporting; they provide directors and officers with constructive observations from the audit process; thus contributing to effective operation of business, capital markets and the public sector.

Professor Ian Percy is chairman of The Audit Agenda steering group which prepared the "code". APB vice-chairman and Accounts Commission for Scotland chairman, a director of several companies and past president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland.

At long last, we may be on to a winner

Robert Bruce

The announcement that the accountancy profession has come up with another plan to sort out public confidence in its reputation is enough to sink anyone's heart down to their boots. But this time the profession insists it is different. And it might be right. The plan is to create an independent board made up of "people of standing and strong, independent mind". This would then be able to consider aspects of the profession and issue its views on them. The theory is that if it said "jump", the profession would have to jump.

The prospect is enticing. The profession has been allowed to get away with a considerable degree of lethargy and complacency for years. It has busied itself with things which would never work, like merging the different accountancy bodies and with regulation because successive governments have told it to do so. It has set up umpteen committees to look at the future. But by and large it has not achieved much. The problem has been the use of the umbrella body that supposedly brings the leaders of the six accountancy bodies together to decide issues that concern the profession as a whole. All this structure does is allow endless squabbles to be refuelled. Presidents and chief executives become aloof and pompous at such a rarified attitude and much given to arrogance and competitive venom. The significance of the plans for a new independent review body is that although they came from a committee representing all six accounting bodies, there was not a president or chief executive among them. If you were to cross your fingers you might even see this as a model for harmony in the future. The English ICA set up its own committee under Chris Swinson of BDO Stoy Hayward almost two years ago.

He produced an initial report suggesting an independent regulatory body. This was considered startlingly radical and the council asked for something which smacked of less independence. By this time the other accounting bodies were thinking that they should come up with ideas of their own. Several schemes were put forward. The whole process seemed to have reached a traditional impasse. All six bodies had different views and everyone would enter a process whereby chief executives and presidents would have a series of acrimonious meetings at which they would rubbish everyone else's proposals. This time that didn't happen. An effort was made to pool all the position statements and reduce them to what everyone agreed on. Then, through a series of meetings and a lot of one-to-one conversations, a model was built and amended. It was built through trust and good, friendly hard work. There was not a president or chief executive in sight. And the framework was published this week.

I could tell immediately that it had a chance of working. I received a panic-stricken phone call from the chief executive of one of the other accountancy bodies last week asking me if I knew what the English ICA was going to say at the press conference this week, and if I did, could I tell him. If chief executives are worried that something might be out of the starting blocks without them strangling it at birth, we could be on to a winner.

The plans may also relieve ordinary accountants' fear of more and more regulation for its own sake. Whenever a regulatory body is accused of not being effective enough, the temptation is to simply make the rules more onerous and not necessarily more effective. There is, as Swinson would point out, a ratchet effect. The existence of an independent body outside the process means realistic reforms could be made. The new body, possibly to be known as the Public Standards Review Board for Accountancy, would have no constraints on its remit. It could investigate whatever issues it wanted, from whether disciplinary procedures are fast enough through to a view on litigation and liability and the independence of auditors. Much would ride on the quality of the proposed body's chief executive, staff and members. But the plan is, as one member of the implementation committee put it, "to make the relationship between the accountancy bodies and the new board transparent and open". He added that this was "not British" and a bit of an innovation.

The detail is now what needs to be sorted out. And that is where the dead hand of all past squabbles may reach out and compromise the prospect of a truly independent body free to deliver a well-aimed kick at whatever complacent target it chooses.

This is the point where the profession either proves its maturity by agreeing to the plans or sinks back into mediocrity by insisting on compromise.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Someone has to do it

PROBABLY the worst job in accountancy is that of Anthony Surtees. He is the independent Reviewer of Complaints for the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales's professional conduct department. His annual report, published this week, is a catalogue of woe. "Just over half of the reviews undertaken gave rise to correspondence after the review," he reports, "in many cases in a prolonged and sometimes rather abusive fashion." But Surtees tries to maintain a bit of a smile. "I have found reviewing complaints continues to be both absorbing and interesting," he says. But then the mask begins to slip a little. "Sadly, correspondence with complainants after my review can be less interesting and repetitive," he concludes.

Jokes "R" Us

ACCOUNTANTS are widely believed to be humourless. This is not true. But a new survey from Hays Accountancy Personnel does not help.

Timed to coincide with April 1, the survey found that "80 per cent of accountants believe that as a profession they are on the receiving end of a disproportionate number of jokes".

Added value

THE idea that leadership on the rugby field can prove inspirational in a wider management context obviously beguiles many. The ex-England captain Will Carling is used by KPMG to add value to its management seminars for clients. Although the firm tends not to use his skills in Scotland in case his appearance loses them clients in the process. Now Price Waterhouse is taking to the field. It is sponsoring the London Business School rugby team.

Fast bowlers

COOPERS & LYBRAND'S enthusiasm for matters technological extends beyond cricket. Mark Waugh, of Australia, is ahead in the voting for player of the year on it cricket ratings site on the Internet. But just to prove that accounting is really Coopers & Lybrands business the firm has launched a tax self-assessment help site. http://www.Coopers.co.uk is the place to sort out the new tax regime.

Robert Bruce

هكذا من الأصل

National Express wins Gatwick rail franchise

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

GATWICK EXPRESS, British Rail's only profitable train franchise, has been sold to the National Express coach and bus group. The company will pay an average £13.5 million a year for the right to operate the service.

The deal is the first under rail privatisation in which a private bidder will pay the Treasury for a franchise, rather than receive a government subsidy to take it off British Rail's hands.

In the first year of the 15-year franchise, National Express will pay £4.6 million compared with British Rail's estimated profit for the franchise of £3.9 million.

By the end of the franchise period, ending in 2011, National Express will be contributing £22.6 million a year to the public purse under the terms of its agreement with Roger Salmon, the rail franchise director.

National Express beat off competition for Gatwick Express, which runs a non-stop service between the airport and Victoria station, from a management buyout group and Richard Branson's Virgin Group.

Adam Mills, the deputy chief executive of National Express, said the company had undertaken to introduce new tailor-made rolling stock on the electrified route by 1999 to replace the existing fleet of seven InterCity trains.

It has already held talks with train manufacturers and leasing companies, Mr Mills said. If it fails to bring the new trains on to the route within seven years, the franchise life will be cut to seven years.

National Express will provide a quarter-hourly service from 5am to midnight and a trial hourly service during the night when there are currently no Gatwick Express trains.

It also promised more on-board staff, an investment of £100,000 on staff training with "special attention paid to the needs of overseas visitors". There will be an on-board check-in facility for hand-luggage-only passengers.

About 3.5 million passengers, many of them package holidaymakers, use the Gatwick Express each year. It employs 311 staff and had £27.2 million revenue last year.

Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, said: "This is further evidence that the process of franchising is bringing benefits to both taxpayers and passengers. I'm delighted that National Express has won this franchise and that it plans to provide new rolling stock.

"We really do have momentum in rail privatisation now as this is the second franchise to be awarded in the last five days."

Brian Wilson, Labour's transport spokesman, said public investment had turned Gatwick Express into a profitable modern route. He said: "There is no advantage to passengers or taxpayers in handing it over to a bus company." However, as long as National Express "can stay within the letter of their contract", the franchise would be allowed to run its course under a Labour Government, Mr Wilson said.

The franchise is the fourth to be let by Mr Salmon, ater the sales of Great Western, South West Trains and InterCity East Coast. Two more, Midland Main Line, and Network SouthCentral are expected to follow within weeks, bringing around 40 per cent of the passenger network into private hands.

Fall in bad debts aids Co-op Bank

By Karen Zagor

THE Co-operative Bank has turned in record profits for a second consecutive year thanks largely to a 29 per cent reduction in provisions for bad debts.

Pre-tax profits for 1995 rose 33 per cent to £36.7 million, compared with £27.5 million. Provisions for bad debt narrowed to £22.7 million from £32 million.

Stripping out bad debt provisions, profits were flat, at £60.2 million, compared with £59.5 million. Terry Thomas, managing director, said results included £10 million in discretionary spending in the last quarter to develop its distribution system.

The bank said provisions may continue to improve if economic recovery continues. Credit quality in the corporate sector was stable throughout the year.

Operating income grew nearly 5 per cent to £249.9 million, from £238.3 million. After last year's record results, the bank pledged not to impose any compulsory redundancies for at least two years. This year, it discussed plans for growth over the next five years. The bank plans to take a cautious approach, avoiding new and untested markets. Instead, it will focus on the personal banking sector. The bank is already expanding its telephone banking service, which is open 24 hours every day of the year.

Rob Thomas, building societies analyst at UBS, said: "I think the Co-op has discovered over the years that personal banking is the jewel in its crown. It doesn't want to be in commercial lending where competition is extremely intense, apart from some small areas where it has an edge, such as lending to charities."

STUART HARRISON

Mike Ost, left, with Stuart Moberley, finance director of McKechnie, at the company's factory in Walsall

Destocking hits McKechnie

By Paul Durman

DEMAND held back by customer destocking and a weak housing market restricted McKechnie, the plastic and metal components group, to interim pre-tax profits of £21.6 million.

Although this was 6.6 per cent up on the previous year, profits from the continuing business were flat. The rise was because of a £600,000 contribution from acquisitions and a £530,000 reduction in the company's interest charge.

Mike Ost, McKechnie's chief executive, said the four main markets for plastic components — cellular phones, computers and other business electronics, automotive, and consumer durables — had all experienced destocking.

McKechnie expects the pressure from destocking to ease. With the benefit from recent American acquisitions, the company is confident it will continue to grow.

In the six months to January 31, McKechnie's plastics division made a profit of £6 million on sales up 11 per cent at £93 million. The Paxton arm has started to benefit from a £27 million order from Tesco for reuseable containers.

Profits in consumer products declined 5 per cent to £7.1 million. Mr Ost was pleased that McKechnie managed to increase its sales in spite of a 25 per cent decline in new house building in Australia.

Specialist products, which includes aerospace fastenings, increased profits 11 per cent to £9.4 million.

McKechnie is increasing its interim dividend from 5.5p to 6p a share. Earnings rose from 14.7p to 16.2p a share.

Mr Ost said: "A 10 per cent earnings per share improvement in this environment is a very solid performance. We are optimistic we will be able to continue to do at least that in the second half."

Restaurant chain to expand

By Alasdair Murray

CITY Centre Restaurants, which owns the Garfunkel and Deep Pan Pizza chains, said that it would speed up expansion this year after announcing a 10 per cent rise in profits to £15.5 million.

The company aims to open 50 new branches this year, with its Caffe Uno and Mexican chains setting the lead. Last year City Centre opened 28 new restaurants.

Bruce Johnston, the chairman, gave warning that refurbishment of the flagship Chiquito restaurant in Leicester Square, central London, and of the Nachos chain would have some impact on first-half performance. He said: "Whilst this will restrict performance during the first half, overall trading is encouraging so far and, with the benefit from new branch openings, we are confident of our propects for the year as a whole."

Turnover rose 7.8 per cent to £111 million in 1995, while the total dividend increased 12 per cent to 2.24p. The profit increase was achieved in spite of a difficult first half in which turnover was hit by the hot summer and a £600,000 exceptional charge for restructuring the pizza division. The company said that the performance of the pizza division was now improving.

A final dividend of 1.79p (1.55p) is payable on June 3.

Door stays open in Australia for UK firms

Power sale to continue

From Rachel Bridge in Sydney

BRITISH electricity companies have been given a second chance to buy into Australia's electricity industry, after a landslide victory for the State of Victoria's Liberal Party this week opened the door for a new wave of privatisation.

The State of Victoria has already raised more than A$11 billion (£5.6 billion) from the sale of five power distributors and one power generator — which was sold to a consortium headed by PowerGen of the UK for A$2.4 billion last month, in what has been hailed as one of Australia's most successful privatisations.

Jeff Kennett, the returning Liberal Premier, pledged to push ahead with the sale of a further A$8 billion of assets, saying: "There has been no government in Australia since the war that has dared to govern in the way in which we have and has clearly succeeded overwhelmingly." Bob Carr, the Labour Premier of New South Wales, said: "This has given a radical conservative government an opportunity to pursue a hardline, Thatcherite agenda."

Modelled heavily on the UK's electricity privatisation, the Victorian sell-off has already attracted a lot of interest from British companies, with Scottish Power, Southern Electric and National Power all having played an active part in the bidding.

Heading the new sales list is the 2,000MW Loy Yang generator, with a A$4 billion price tag, while the 1,600MW Hazelwood power station is expected to sell for more than A$1.5 billion and the Powernet Victoria transmission company toria could go for A$2 billion.

Legislation by the Victoria state government already requires electricity companies to achieve real price reductions to residential and small business customers of 9.1 per cent and 22 per cent respectively up to the year 2000.

MIDLAND

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

NEW INTEREST RATES

FOR PERSONAL LENDING

With effect from 1st April 1996	Interest rate % p.a.	Decreased by % p.a.	APR %
Home Loan Rate	7.25	0.24	7.5
Home Improvement Loan Rate: Loans sanctioned before 26.4.89	9.25	0.24	9.5
House Mortgage Rate	7.25	0.24	7.4

CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE VARIED ACCORDINGLY

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Equities finish with modest falls

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
254	200	Quadramatic	254	+ 9	4.0	15.7
18	14½	Quadrant Grp	15		2.1	41.9
65	62	Radiant Metal	65			
69	55	Ransomes	69			19.2
66	55½	Record	66		7.1	12.0
274	231	Renold	274	+ 2	2.4	15.5
36	32½	Richards Group	33		8.5	9.8
89	78	Richardson Wstgt	85		5.5	
222	197	Rolls-Royce	217		2.9	25.6
214	171	Rotork	213		3.2	
178	160	Rubroid	168		4.1	16.7
1569½	1187½	SKF 'B'	1468½	+ 9½	3.6	
108	92½	Senior Eng	102		4.5	
245	156	Setfid-Fire▼	233		1.7	
897	750	Siebe	874	− 23	1.8	24.2
84	70	Simon Eng	81		1.0	30.6
208	150	Six Hundred	208	+ 16	1.4	14.9
706	622	Smiths Ind	703	− 1	2.6	22.4
720	595	Spirax-Sarco	720		2.3	21.3
311	287	Stirling Ind	308		3.2	14.9
515	456	TI	503	− 3	3.1	19.5
99	94	Tenby (E)O	94		7.5	13.8
105	78	Transtec	101	− 2	2.8	
178	140	Triplex Lloyd	178		4.9	13.2
150	137	Unicorn Ind	143	+ 2	4.8	
16½	14½	Utd Inds	16½		3.5	
14	10½	Vasco	13½			
302	249	Vickers	259	− 2	3.2	16.9
14	12	Villiers Grp	12½			
770	701	Vitec	759		1.7	14.4
882	815	Vosper Thorny	827		3.3	15.1
436	389	Wagon Ind	418		5.7	12.0
261	212	Weir	245	− 1	3.8	
255	228	Wellington Hdgt	255		3.6	
50	42	Wellman	50		4.1	11.0
425	363	Whatman	410		3.6	
122	73	Wigery	74		5.8	8.6

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
143	109	Adwest	136		7.2	38.8
275	265	Airflow Stream	268		3.7	6.3
575	473	Avon Rubber	575	+ 3	3.8	14.0
73	57½	BSG	73		5.7	
310	273	Boston	310	+ 2	2.7	
29	20	Bourbead▼	21		6.0	
252	175	ERF	177	− 1	3.2	10.4
460	431	First Tech	433		2.7	15.5
979	778	GKN	968	− 11	3.1	17.6
3668½	3112½	General Mtr	3637½	− 31½	2.9	
1491½	1312½	Honda Motor	1422½	+ 5	0.6	
438	386	Laird	428	− 6	3.6	
445	475	Lookers	445		0.3	

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
510	475	Candover	505	− 1	3.3	
62½	39	Central Euro Gwth	58½		1.8	
214	177	Conti Assett	214		1.8	78.8
75	67	Danae Inv Inc	67		14.3	7.8
345	325	Derby Cap	338	+ 3		
160	142	Derby Inc	142		17.0	7.3
744	684	Dunedin Inc Gt	690	− 2	5.0	24.1
93	84	Dunedin Japan	92½			
344	314	Dunedin Smlr	342		3.3	44.0
34	16	Dunedin Wts	24½	− 1		
857	791	Dunedin Worldw	853		1.4	74.4
115½	102½	Edin Dragon	111½	+ ½		
30½	25	Edinburgh Inv Wts	27½	+ ½		
345	320	Edinburgh	330	− 1	3.6	31.8
176	152	EFM Japan	172	− 2		
380	362	Electra Inv	378		2.5	80.4
245	222	Electric Gen	241	+ ½	1.8	64.0
152	143	English Scot	151			
390	332	European Assett	389		1.6	
219	193	Fidity Euro Valt	216	− 1	0.3	
81	71½	Fidity Jap Valt	76½	− ½	0.2	
121	102	Fidity Spec Val	119	− 1	0.5	
180	171½	Finsbury A	180	+ 1	3.3	57.9
200½	187	Five Arr Chile	187½	− 1½	1.7	
43½	27½	Five Arr Wts	31½			
315	273	Fleming Amerl	313½	− 1	1.0	
69½	54	Fleming Chinese	62½		1.0	73.3
44	26½	Fleming Ch Wts	27½			
289	250	Fleming Claver	289	+ 1	3.8	33.9
387	343	Fleming Contl	381		1.1	
160	142½	Fleming Em Mkts	149½			
254	244½	Fleming Entpr	251	− 1	2.6	46.8
388	350	Fleming F East	368½	− ½	0.5	
419	395	Fleming Fledgl	419	+ 2	0.9	
103½	96½	Fleming Hi Inc	103½	− 1½	5.6	21.2
64½	51½	Fleming Indian	63½			
41	28	Fleming In Wts	37½			
43	39	Fleming Ind	39½		11.9	10.8
280	249	Fleming Japan	269	− 3½		
317	286	Fleming Mercl	315½	− ½	3.0	
114	95	Fleming Nat Rest	110		0.6	
366	330	Fleming Overs	354½	− ½	1.6	62.5
168	155½	Foreign & Colt	157½	− ½	1.6	
113	98½	F&C Inc Gwth	102		4.0	23.9
116	104	F&C Emg Mkts	109½			
95½	85½	F&C Enterprise	95½		1.6	58.6
289	257	F&C Eurotst	288		0.5	
142	125	F&C German	136	− ½	0.5	
204½	183½	F&C Pacific	198½	− ½	0.9	79.3
140	134	F&C PEP	140	+ 1	3.4	32.7
184½	172	F&C Smaller	182½	− ½	1.5	75.1
139	132	F&C US Smlr	132	− 1		
18	14	Fulcrum Cap	14½			
34	30	Fulcrum Inc	31	+ 1		3.2
165	161	Fulcrum Zero	165			
63	54	Murray Eurot	62½		0.7	
392	370	Murray Income	379	− 1	4.0	29.2
418	377	Murray Ind	415	− 1	3.8	30.1
193½	180	Murray S/C DP	183½	− ½		
151	135	Murray S/C Cap	136			
73	66	Murray S/C Inc	68	+ 1	20.5	6.3
3050	2850	Murray S/C Ord	2875		0.5	
506	434	Murray Small	500		1.2	
366	355	Murray Vent	365		4.2	39.6
15	14	Newmarket	14			
59	50	Northing Inct	53		11.9	11.2
86	80	Northing Cap	80	− 1		
407	377	O'seas Inv Tst	401		1.1	
218	183	O'seas Wts	197			
147	131	Pacific Assets	137	− ½	0.3	
92½	80½	Perpetual Jap	89½			
333	287	Perpt UK Sm Cot	332	+ 2	0.9	70.1
£121	£111½	Personal Assets	£119½		2.1	61.4
115	103	Pilot Inv	115		2.1	55.8
118	109	Prolific Incf	117½		5.0	27.2
226	210	RIT Cap Ptnr	225	+ 1	0.9	
129	109	River Merc Cap	119			
83	70	River Merc Gtd Inc	72		13.5	9.2
26	24½	River Merc Gtd Ptl	25½			
106	100½	River Merc Tst Inc	103½		11.4	11.3
137	128	River Merc Sm Cot	137	+ 2	4.0	29.5
36	29	River Merc Sml Wt	35			
460	450	Robeco	[illegible]		2.1	
537	475	Rolinco	531	− 3	1.5	
119	105½	Schrd Asia Pac	116½	− ½		
117	111	Schrod Inc Gwth	115	− 3	4.3	
95	78½	Schrod Jap Gwth	87½			
899½	819	Schrod Korea	835½	− 1		
331	291	Schrod Redm	321		0.6	

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4	3½	Allied Radio	3½			
16	14	BBB Design	16			
312	273	Barbour Index	310		3.7	46.6
9	5½	Birkdale	5½	+ ½		
335	325	Black (A&C)	335		5.4	
298	238	Blenheim Gp	290		4.6	14.6
318	248	Border TV	275		2.0	22.7
382	355	Bristol	370		4.5	19.1
458	376	BSkyB	436	− 2	1.4	40.0
175	133	CIA GpO	175		1.0	
26½	19½	Caledonian Med	22	− ½		
675	533	Capital Radio	633	+ 2	2.0	
488	379½	Carlton Comm▼	464		2.5	16.6
445	363	Chrysalis	445		0.8	
83	76	City of LonO	76		8.2	9.7
132	90	Cordiant	130	− 1		
1558½	1300	Daily Mail	1525		1.5	37.1
1481½	1168½	Daily Mail 'A'	1406½	− 9½	1.6	

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
143	106	Aberdeen Tst	119	+ ½	2.6	23.4
107	77	BWD	102		6.1	12.3
40	34½	Berry Bch Wst	35		9.3	9.9
320	252	Bisbec Inv	297	− 1		
184	151	Brewin Dolphin	181		4.8	12.7
768	700	Caledonia	768	+ 10	2.8	23.8
2300	1993½	Camellia	3025		2.3	18.6
254	213	Cattles	253	+ 1	3.5	
24	18	Christie	21			
108	90	EFT Group	106		2.5	12.6
718	658	EFM	685		4.6	16.7
118	91	Exco	104		11.5	11.8
274	240	Gartmore	298		0.9	20.9

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TEXTILES & APPAREL

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

BRITISH FUNDS

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
103	100[illegible]	Treas 15¼% 1996	100[illegible]		15.13	5.96
102[illegible]	100[illegible]	Exch 13¼% 1996	100[illegible]		13.14	5.83
217[illegible]	215[illegible]	Treas 2% 1996	216[illegible]		0.92	5.84
103[illegible]	102[illegible]	Conv 10% 1996	102[illegible]		9.76	6.00
101[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 7% 1997	100[illegible]		6.95	6.40
107[illegible]	105[illegible]	Treas 13¼% 1997	105[illegible]		12.55	6.05
104[illegible]	103[illegible]	Exch 10½% 1997	103[illegible]		10.12	6.11
104[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 1997	102[illegible]		8.50	6.45
114[illegible]	112[illegible]	Exch 15% 1997	112[illegible]	− [illegible]	13.36	6.55
106[illegible]	104[illegible]	Exch 9¾% 1998	105[illegible]	− [illegible]	9.28	6.66
102[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 1998	100[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.19	6.79
100[illegible]	98[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	99[illegible]	− [illegible]	6.76	6.86
116[illegible]	113[illegible]	Treas 14% 1998-01	113[illegible]	− [illegible]	12.30	6.90
122[illegible]	118[illegible]	Treas 15½% 1998	118[illegible]	− [illegible]	13.01	6.95
114[illegible]	111[illegible]	Exch 12% 1998	111[illegible]	− [illegible]	10.75	7.05
108[illegible]	105[illegible]	Treas 9½% 1999	105[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.97	7.07
116[illegible]	113[illegible]	Exch 12¼% 1999	113[illegible]	− [illegible]	10.87	7.17
112[illegible]	108[illegible]	Treas 10½% 1999	109[illegible]	− [illegible]	9.63	7.18
98[illegible]	96	Treas 6% 1999	96[illegible]	− [illegible]	6.22	7.20
112[illegible]	108[illegible]	Conv 10¼% 1999	109[illegible]	− [illegible]	9.39	7.31
108[illegible]	104[illegible]	Conv 9% 2000	105[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.54	7.37
105[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 8% 2000	102[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.83	7.42
124[illegible]	119[illegible]	Treas 13% 2000	119[illegible]	− [illegible]	10.84	7.45
114	109[illegible]	Treas 10% 2001	109[illegible]	− [illegible]	9.11	7.55
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
101[illegible]	96[illegible]	Treas 7% 2001	97[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.20	7.60
114[illegible]	108[illegible]	Treas 9¾% 2002	109[illegible]		8.88	7.77
105[illegible]	99[illegible]	Treas 8% 2003	100[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.93	7.82
117[illegible]	110[illegible]	Treas 10% 2003	111[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.95	7.86
119[illegible]	114[illegible]	Treas 11½% 2001-04	115[illegible]	− [illegible]	9.96	7.67
83[illegible]	78[illegible]	Fund 3½% 1999-04	79[illegible]	− [illegible]	4.39	6.74
114[illegible]	108	Conv 9½% 2004	109[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.71	8.00
96[illegible]	91[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 2004	92[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.31	7.98
108[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2005	103[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.24	8.01
114[illegible]	108[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2005	109[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.70	8.04

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
131[illegible]	124[illegible]	Treas 12½% 2003-05	125[illegible]	− [illegible]	9.98	8.00
101[illegible]	94[illegible]	Treas 7½% 2006	95[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.82	8.06
103[illegible]	96[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2006	97[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.95	8.09
104[illegible]	97[illegible]	Treas 8% 2002-06	99[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.07	8.14
125[illegible]	118[illegible]	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	119[illegible]		9.82	7.94
108[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2007	102[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.29	8.14
138[illegible]	130[illegible]	Treas 13½% 2004-08	131[illegible]	− [illegible]	10.24	8.00
112[illegible]	105	Treas 9% 2008	106[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.56	8.16
104[illegible]	96[illegible]	Treas 8% 2009	98[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.14	8.20
LONGS (over 15 years)						
88[illegible]	81[illegible]	Treas 6¼% 2010	83[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.52	8.25
112[illegible]	104[illegible]	Conv 9% 2011	106[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.49	8.26
113[illegible]	104[illegible]	Treas 9% 2012	106[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.47	8.38
82[illegible]	76[illegible]	Treas 5½% 2008-12	77[illegible]	− [illegible]	7.12	7.99
103[illegible]	95[illegible]	Treas 8% 2013	97[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.22	8.28
101[illegible]	93[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	94[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.17	8.28
103[illegible]	95[illegible]	Treas 8% 2015	97[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.22	8.26
111[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 2017	104[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.39	8.31
141[illegible]	130[illegible]	Exch 12% 2013-17	132[illegible]	− [illegible]	9.03	8.38
99[illegible]	95[illegible]	Treas 8% 2021	97[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.22	8.25
UNDATED						
45[illegible]	41[illegible]	War Ln 3½%	42[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.32	
32[illegible]	29[illegible]	Treas 2½%	29[illegible]	− [illegible]	8.39	
50[illegible]	46[illegible]	Consols 4%	47	− [illegible]	8.51	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
113[illegible]	111[illegible]	Treas IL 4¾% 1998	111[illegible]	− [illegible]	[illegible]	2.99
180[illegible]	176[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2001	177[illegible]	− [illegible]	3.11	3.61
176[illegible]	171[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2003	173[illegible]	− [illegible]	3.26	3.65
116[illegible]	112[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	114[illegible]	− [illegible]	3.29	3.64
185[illegible]	179[illegible]	Treas IL 2% 2006	181[illegible]	− [illegible]	3.40	3.67
167[illegible]	161[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2009	163[illegible]	− [illegible]	3.47	3.70
172[illegible]	166[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2011	168[illegible]	− [illegible]	3.52	3.72
143	136[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2013	138[illegible]	− [illegible]	3.56	3.74
152[illegible]	145[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2016	147[illegible]	− [illegible]	3.60	3.77
146	138[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2020	141[illegible]	− [illegible]	3.63	3.78
122	115[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2024	117[illegible]	− [illegible]	3.62	3.75
120[illegible]	113[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	115[illegible]	− [illegible]	3.61	3.76

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 01895 258 783				
Grotond Amer	211.20	223.40	+ 0.40	0.15
Grotond Equity	274.70	292.20	+ 0.70	1.86
Grotond Euro	372.00	388.50	+ 0.50	0.57
Grotond Eqpt Bas	129.10	133.80	...	2.63
Grotond Gilt	75.57	77.91	+ 0.11	6.27
Grotond Japan	183.70	194.40	+ 0.50	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS 01203 553 231				
General Acc	642.60	683.90†	+ 2.00	2.60
General Inc	546.20	581.70†	+ 1.80	2.60
UK Growth Acc	435.90	463.80	+ 1.50	2.77
UK Growth Inc	290.40	309.00	+ 1.00	2.77
Higher Inc Acc	785.00	835.20	+ 3.50	4.30
Higher Inc Inc	436.90	464.80	+ 1.90	4.20
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	204.80	216.30†	..	5.68
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	91.65	98.80†	..	5.68
Nth America	369.10	392.70	+ 0.40	
Europe	351.70	374.20†	+ 0.30	0.40
Brit Excell	86.34	91.86	+ 0.29	2.96
Brit Fndmtls Acc	114.20	121.50†	+ 0.50	4.83
Brit Fndmtls Inc	78.25	83.25†	+ 0.33	4.83
Global Opps	102.50	109.10	..	0.25
Balanced Acc	62.64	66.64	+ 0.15	2.66
Balanced Inc	59.21	62.99	+ 0.14	2.66
Japan Acc	48.90	52.03†	- 0.14	..
Pac Basin Acc	428.60	456.00	+ 0.80	0.76
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS 0345 717 373				
Gilt & Fixed Int	127.80	135.80†	+ 0.30	7.37
High Inc Equity	179.80	192.30†	- 0.20	4.38
Worldwide Bond	289.70	307.20	+ 0.20	4.56
American Growth	386.30	397.80	+ 0.60	0.19
Asian Pacific	353.40	378.00	+ 1.70	0.06
Assets & Earnings	302.30	321.00	+ 1.00	2.71
Euro Capital Acc	177.70	190.00	+ 0.10	0.54
Extra Inc	44.21	47.03†	+ 0.03	8.55
General	273.00	290.40	+ 0.80	2.87
Global Opps	66.45	70.69	+ 0.21	0.42
Japan	130.50	139.60	- 0.10	
Managed Inc	48.01	51.02†	+ 0.02	4.56
Ministrust	167.00	178.80	+ 0.20	1.44
US Emerging Cos	200.00	212.80	+ 1.20	
Ethical	80.36	85.49	+ 0.07	2.68
International	138.10	148.00	..	0.53
Dividend & Growth	67.39	71.69	- 0.05	4.39
Global Gwth & Sec	72.52	77.46	+ 0.17	2.50
Latin America	60.00	63.83	- 0.20	
Capital Reserve	142.86	142.80		4.80
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2138.00	2223.00		
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	59.26	61.52†		0.50
Emerging Mkts	72.87	77.01		0.04
European	147.70	153.60		
Exempt	1019.40	1080.70†		1.71
Extra Income #	46.29	49.72†		6.84
Far East Emg Eco	135.90	142.70		0.44
Fixed Interest #	24.10	25.06		9.37
Fixed Inv Tst	149.10	155.60†		10.00
Japan	190.80	198.40		
Latin American	54.92	57.31		0.86
Pacific	88.35	92.77†		0.28
Property Share	63.86	67.04		2.62
UK Emerging Cos	70.58	75.89		1.63
UK Growth	50.78	53.71†		2.19
Abtrust World Port #	81.97	83.48		1.96
Ethical	77.31	80.40		2.19
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.00	50.00†		7.51

For AEGON see Matheson

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0171 256 5868

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	98.93	105.49	+ 0.08	2.43
American Portfolio	120.12	127.23	+ 0.10	0.90
European Portfolio	127.67	135.71†	- 0.01	0.43
High Income	50.45	50.55	- 0.01	7.95
Japanese Portfolio	72.15	76.89†	- 0.14	
Pacific Portfolio	162.10	174.31	+ 0.54	1.38
UK Inc & Growth	93.43	99.84†	- 0.01	2.85
Utility & Bond	58.10	58.75	- 0.03	6.51
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG 0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	745.16	756.42	+ 5.99	4.38
Fxd Int Sec	151.76	152.36	+ 0.15	9.32
COIF CHARITY FUNDS 0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	733.56	744.64	+ 2.16	4.36
Investment Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ 9.73	
Fixed Int Inc	125.40	125.90	- 0.06	9.13
Fixed Int Acc	213.23	214.09	- 0.13	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD 0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	88.56	94.55	- 0.26	3.14
Beck Bio-Tech	46.39	50.00		
Acorn Ethical Tst	174.10	182.82	..	
City Fin Assets	78.17	82.09†		0.59
City Fin America	119.12	125.08†	+ 2.11	1.99
City Fin Intl	95.16	102.10	+ 0.77	0.80
City Fin Japan	157.33	165.21	+ 1.04	
Friars Hse Cap	320.04	340.47		2.30
Friars Hse Inc	203.26	216.23		4.11
Buckley Wrld Gth	151.04	160.10†	+ 0.37	..
Fairmount Cap Gth	153.26	161.33		
Fairmount Intl	164.61	173.27		
J Std Inc/Gth Inc	56.85	58.70		1.61
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	58.93	62.52	- 0.20	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD 0800 373 393				
American Gwth	79.41	84.48	+ 0.43	
Dragon Growth	76.16	81.45	+ 0.45	0.31
Equity High Inc	88.95	94.63†	+ 0.36	4.23
-do- Accum	125.20	133.19	+ 0.51	4.23
Extra Income Inc	25.70	27.05†	+ 0.11	7.72
Extra Income Acc	27.49	28.94	+ 0.12	7.72
European Gwth	62.73	66.56	+ 0.17	1.00
Evergreen	30.54	32.56	+ 0.04	0.07
General Equity	99.25	105.30	+ 0.33	2.05
Japan Growth	53.21	56.61	- 0.03	
Pedigree Gwth	60.76	64.64	+ 0.30	2.49
Pert Sm Cos Inc	36.49	38.82	+ 0.03	1.49
-do- Accum	38.43	40.88	+ 0.03	1.49
Retirement Inc #	27.70	29.47	+ 0.07	5.97
Special Sits	46.22	49.17	+ 0.18	2.00
UK & Overseas	58.77	62.36	+ 0.23	0.70
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD 01634 890 000				
Balanced	65.69	69.38	+ 0.21	4.14
Capital	79.89	83.11	+ 0.16	2.36
High Income	50.12	52.14	+ 0.15	7.27
Top 50	53.89	56.08	+ 0.23	2.18
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD 0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	180.02	191.51†	+ 0.67	4.57
Fixed & Convertible	40.37	42.95†	+ 0.14	8.77
Monthly Inc Plus	48.38	51.45†	+ 0.14	8.71
Preference Share	46.40	49.36†	+ 0.22	7.70
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	131.37	139.76†	+ 0.53	5.81
Managed Fund	75.81	80.65†	+ 0.17	2.92
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	47.58	50.62†	+ 0.06	1.61

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	115.30	122.70	- 0.40	
Master Trust	67.14	71.43	+ 0.13	1.15
-do- Accum	76.29	81.15	+ 0.15	1.15
N American Gen	241.80	257.30	- 0.10	..
-do- Accum	279.60	297.50	- 0.10	
NAm Sm Co Rec	196.90	209.50	- 2.50	
-do- Accum	201.00	213.90	- 2.50	
Pacific Basin	289.20	307.70	+ 1.10	0.06
-do- Accum	308.10	327.80	+ 1.20	0.06
Small Cos Rec	485.50	511.10	+ 0.90	1.58
-do- Accum	661.20	696.10	+ 1.20	1.58
UK Eq Gth	156.00	166.00†	- 1.60	2.80
UK Eq Inc	123.20	131.10†	+ 0.30	4.29
UK Growth	100.50	107.00	+ 1.50	2.03
-do- Accum	124.80	132.80	+ 1.80	2.03
Worldwide Gth	366.60	390.00	+ 0.10	
-do- Accum	541.80	576.40	+ 0.20	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT 01392 282 673				
American	87.06	93.20	+ 0.24	0.40
General	102.91	110.41	+ 0.25	2.40
Income	70.75	75.91†	+ 0.40	5.30
International	76.23	81.79	+ 0.05	0.40
Japan	62.83	67.41	- 0.20	
Tst of Inv Trusts	75.50	81.00†	+ 0.03	1.40
M & G SECURITIES Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
Amer & General	526.20	556.00	+ 0.10	0.35
-do- Accum	657.50	694.80	+ 0.10	0.35
Amer Recovery	566.00	598.50	+ 1.10	0.34
-do- Accum	652.10	689.60	+ 1.30	0.34
Amer Smllr Cos	163.70	173.10	+ 0.10	
-do- Accum	167.20	176.90	+ 0.10	
Australasian	192.20	203.50†	- 1.00	2.11
-do- Accum	239.50	253.20†	- 1.30	2.11
Capital	964.00	1019.40		2.87
-do- Accum	1135.90	1201.20	+ 0.10	2.87
Charifund	750.90	758.50	+ 1.00	5.70
-do- Accum	3724.40	3761.70	+ 5.10	5.70
Commodity	501.70	530.60	+ 3.00	0.31
-do- Accum	739.80	782.50	+ 4.40	0.31
Compound Gth	1091.90	1144.10	+ 4.30	3.01
-do- Accum	1164.10	1231.00	+ 4.70	3.01
Corporate Bond	24.37	24.46†	+ 0.02	8.00
Dividend	44.80	47.40		4.43
-do- Accum	195.20	206.80	+ 0.10	4.43
Equity Income	351.80	372.00	+ 0.80	4.97
-do- Accum	476.50	503.80	+ 1.00	4.97
Euro & General	637.70	668.00	- 0.30	0.89
-do- Accum	805.70	852.00	- 0.30	0.89
Euro Dividend	82.00	86.70	+ 0.20	3.54
-do- Accum	101.90	107.80	+ 0.30	3.54
Extra Yield	452.40	478.40†	+ 0.90	5.02
-do- Accum	1489.50	1575.60†	+ 3.00	5.02
Far Eastern	396.80	419.60†	+ 0.40	1.06
-do- Accum	529.40	559.70†	+ 0.40	1.06
Fund of Inv Tsts	694.30	734.10	+ 0.80	1.91
-do- Accum	1318.90	1394.70	+ 1.50	1.91
General	68.30	72.20	+ 0.10	3.73
-do- Accum	198.50	209.80	+ 0.20	3.73
Gilt Income	59.94	60.02	+ 0.08	7.30
-do- Accum	175.66	175.91	+ 0.24	7.30
Gold	84.40	89.30	- 0.50	0.13
-do- Accum	100.20	106.00	- 0.70	0.13
High Income	32.50	34.40		4.65
-do- Accum	135.80	143.90	+ 0.10	4.65
Intl Growth	94.40	99.80		0.65
-do- Accum	166.10	175.70	+ 0.10	0.65
International Inc	113.10	119.60	+ 0.10	4.40
-do- Accum	174.90	184.90	+ 0.10	4.40
Japan & Gen	43.30	45.70	- 0.20	
-do- Accum	46.50	49.10	- 0.10	
Japan Smlr Cos	150.00	158.60	- 0.10	
-do- Accum	151.10	159.70	- 0.10	
Managed Gwth	27.10	28.60	.	1.67
Managed Income	29.80	31.30†		4.15
Midland	63.50	67.20	+ 0.10	3.31
-do- Accum	218.10	230.90	+ 0.30	3.31
Pension Ex	1061.40	1088.00	+ 1.90	4.31
Recovery	49.00	51.80	- 0.10	2.65
-do- Accum	82.40	87.10	- 0.20	2.65

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilt & Fixed	94.05	99.77	+ 0.04	5.56
Income	97.29	103.50	+ 0.30	2.47
Japan Growth	55.38	58.78	- 0.06	
Managed	80.56	85.69	+ 0.14	2.05
Money Market	92.44	97.99	+ 0.01	4.10
North American	110.80	117.40	+ 1.50	0.38
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	113.20	120.40	+ 0.60	1.47
European Growth	122.20	129.50	- 0.10	0.01
Gilt & Fixed Int	89.05	94.46	+ 0.04	5.56
Income	95.41	101.50	+ 0.20	2.53
Japan Growth	55.09	58.38	- 0.06	
Managed	76.98	81.89	+ 0.13	2.03
Money Market	85.30	90.42		4.06
North American	100.10	106.10	+ 1.40	0.46
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	112.70	119.90	+ 0.50	1.46
European Growth	119.50	126.70	- 0.10	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	81.51	86.47	+ 0.04	5.71
Income	93.47	99.44	+ 0.20	2.57
Japan Growth	56.36	59.74	- 0.06	
Managed	79.79	84.88	+ 0.13	2.04
Money Market	78.87	83.60		4.16
North American	112.00	118.60	+ 1.50	0.35
MILLENNIUM FUND MGMT LTD 0171 407 5966				
International (US$)	14.79	15.67		
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	464.20	493.40†	+ 1.20	..
European Gth Inc	650.70	694.10	+ 0.80	..
-do- Accum	657.80	701.60	+ 0.80	..
Intl Gwth	235.60	250.40	+ 0.60	
UK Equity Inc	211.90	225.30	+ 0.50	3.57
Do Accum	285.60	303.80	+ 0.90	3.57
UK Ind Trckr Inc	185.70	198.20†	+ 0.50	2.52
-do- Accum	226.20	241.50†	+ 0.60	2.52
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	272.70	288.70	+ 0.20	0.89
Japan Tracker	80.35	84.74	- 0.21	
Asian Trader	242.10	260.90	+ 0.90	0.16
Managed Inc	187.10	199.20	+ 0.30	2.18
Deposit Inc	99.99	99.99†	+ 0.01	5.47
Europa	312.90	334.80†	+ 1.20	...
Genesis	201.82	217.70	+ 0.10	1.51
High Income	21.08	22.36	+ 0.04	10.00
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT 0345 090 933				
Acumen	107.20	109.70	+ 0.30	2.19
Acumen Inc	99.20	101.50	+ 0.30	2.19
Acumen Reserve	90.49	91.40	+ 0.29	8.12
-do- Inc	73.02	73.75	+ 0.24	8.12
American Growth	67.53	69.55	- 0.04	
Cash Income	49.85	49.85	+ 0.01	5.36
Equity Income #	102.30	105.00†	+ 0.30	4.62
European	81.55	82.97	+ 0.25	0.60
Smaller Cos	88.44	92.93	+ 0.06	1.07
Worldwide Eqty	77.34	78.59	+ 0.01	
Global Bond	46.42	46.94	+ 0.01	6.10
UK Growth	109.00	111.80	+ 0.10	1.88
Pacific Growth	130.20	134.60	+ 0.90	0.54
Japan Growth	109.30	117.10	- 0.50	
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Avon Equity	142.93	152.05	+ 0.40	2.37
N&P UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 0161 237 5322				
UK Growth	86.85	92.39	+ 0.12	2.25
UK Income	122.84	130.68	+ 0.25	3.94
Higher Income	231.47	246.24	+ 0.59	5.12
Smaller Cos	100.70	107.13†	+ 0.25	1.73
International	111.67	118.80	+ 0.05	1.45
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS 0171 623 4200				
American Dist	133.70	142.20	+ 0.20	0.30
European Dist	144.90	154.20	+ 0.40	0.20
Far East Dist	211.60	225.10	+ 0.60	
Global Care Dist	87.30	92.87	+ 0.31	0.67

Never mind the gonads... it's

Adoption papers for ombudsman

In re a subpoena issued by the Commissioner for Local Administration

Before Mr Justice Carnwath

[Judgment April 2]

It was Parliament's intention that the Commissioner for Local Administration (the local ombudsman) should have jurisdiction to investigate matters relating to adoption and that he should have very wide powers to pursue those investigations. Therefore, it was not contrary to the public interest that the commissioner should be entitled to obtain from a local authority privileged confidential information from its adoption files.

Mr Justice Carnwath, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division, so held when dismissing an appeal by a local authority from a refusal by Master McKenzie of its application to set aside a writ of subpoena duces tecum issued on December 13, 1994 and served on the council's director of social service requiring the production of confidential documents relating to the adoption of children in the council's area.

The commissioner accepted for investigation a complaint made in October 1992 of maladministration by a local authority, namely, that it had failed properly to consider the complainant couple as adoptive parents for a second child, and that as a result the complainants had been unable to complete their family.

In connection with the investigation the commissioner asked for a range of information from the local authority's adoption files, including details of baby girls available for adoption from the time the couple were approved as prospective parents.

The commissioner's reason for wanting that information was in order to make a comparative analysis from other cases and thereby decide if the claimed injustice had been in consequence of maladministration in the complainants' case. However, the local authority was not prepared to disclose the information requested and the commissioner issued the subpoena.

The appeal was heard in chambers but judgment was given in open court with the direction that the names of the local authority and the solicitors concerned should not be disclosed.

Miss Cherie Booth, QC, for the local authority; Miss Genevra Caws, QC and Mr Paul Brown for the commissioner.

MR JUSTICE CARNWATH said that Miss Booth accepted that the commissioner was entitled to investigate the administrative arrangements made by the authority in dealing with adoption applications and in putting their proposals before the adoption panel, but she submitted that the commissioner could not review the panel's reasoning itself or attempt to second guess the decision the panel took when placing a child with adoptive parents.

However, his Lordship said that the panel did not make a final decision: it made a recommendation to the adoption agency who in turn would be subject to the court's judgment.

On the main issue of public interest immunity, Miss Booth drew attention to the fact that the council had already provided sufficient information to show that very few cases were comparable to the complainants' and that there were good reasons as to why they were not in fact chosen, either because of their particular circumstances or because there were others who had been waiting longer than they had.

She submitted that if this had been ordinary litigation the commissioner might very well be held to be "fishing" and the claim would be unlikely to survive against the very strong competing claims to confidentiality of documents relating to adoption.

His Lordship said that was not the correct approach. Parliament had not sought to exclude adoption business from the matters subject to the commissioner's scrutiny and indeed the regulations made specific provision for investigation of adoption matters.

There was clear indication of the importance that Parliament attached to the commissioner having the fullet possible access to the relevant records even in sensitive areas such as those relating to child care.

It was vital to public confidence in the commissioner's role that he should be able to carry out a full investigation, so that he could tell those affected that he had had full access to all relevant documents even if for reasons of confidentiality he could not disclose the results to them.

Provided that the commissioner could show that the material was bona fide required for te purpose of the investigation and that he was able and willing to comply with the necessary restrictions on disclosure, then the balance should come down in favour of disclosure.

The commissioner did not challenge the local authority's point that nobody had a right to demand a child for adoption and that the fact that a couple had been approved as an adoptive family did not mean that they could expect to be allocated a child within any particular time scale, or indeed at all.

The commissioner's reference to a "date order queue" was no more than an acknowledgement that where all other things were equal and there was more than one family found to be wholly suitable for a particular child, then it might be fair to give preference to the parents who had been waiting the longest.

The commissioner however considered it her duty to satisfy herself from the relevant files that the matter had been dealt with properly in practice.

The appeal was dismissed but the commissioner was invited to reconsider the terms of the subpoena with a view to narrowing the range of documents requested to those which were strictly necessary to complete the investigation.

Elements causing nervous shock

Vernon v Bosley

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgment March 29]

Grief and bereavement caused by another's negligence were not actionable heads of damages, but damages were recoverable for nervous shock, even if that was partly attributable to the pathological consequences of grief and bereavement.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment (Lord Justice Stuart-Smith dissenting) in dismissing an appeal brought by the defendant, Katherine Bosley, against the decision of Mr Justice Sedley on January 30, 1995 that Peter Vernon, was entitled to recover damages for mental illness. However, the Court of Appeal reduced the amount of damages awarded.

Mr Dermod O'Brien, QC and Mr Daniel Pearce-Higgins for the defendant; Mr David Blunt, QC and Mr Jonathan Marks, QC, for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH, dissenting, said that on August 13, 1982 the plaintiff's daughters, Philippa, aged 7 and Theresa, aged 3½, together with a third child, were being driven by the plaintiff's nanny, the defendant.

The defendant lost control of the car and it crashed down a 30ft bank into the fast flowing river which ran alongside the road. The defendant managed to escape but the children were trapped.

The plaintiff and his wife, who both worked nearby, were called to the scene by the police. When they arrived they watched the unsuccessful attempts of the rescue services to retrieve the car and save the children. It had never been disputed that the accident was caused by the defendant's negligence.

The plaintiff's case was presented on the basis that he suffered a severe degree of nervous shock and psychological trauma and subsequently developed a severe post traumatic stress disorder complicated by a severe grief reaction.

The defendant had throughout accepted that the plaintiff fell into that category of person who could be awarded damages resulting from the nervous shock of witnessing an accident or its immediate aftermath.

Her case was that the plaintiff did not suffer from post traumatic stress disorder, as opposed to a grief reaction, pathological grief disorder, which he would have suffered in any event if he had not witnessed the tragedy, but had been told of it at a distance.

The defendant further contended that the accident and its effect on the plaintiff was not causative of the collapse of his business but that that was due to other factors and it would have collapsed when it did for the reasons it did irrespective of the accident.

Her case at the trial was that the plaintiff was a Walter Mitty character from the start, failing far more often than he succeeded at each stage of his life, making enemies through his own deficiencies of character and forever blaming others; a man who continuously refashioned his extremely modest achievements into a grandiose myth; who, having failed in a succession of employments, had bought at an overvalue an ailing company which was destined to founder for economic reasons and the plaintiff's defects of character; who had consistently with his life-long character blamed the failure of his company on everything and everybody but himself.

His Lordship had reached the clear conclusion that the plaintiff had not discharged the onus which was upon him of proving that the shock of witnessing the accident caused or substantially contributed to the illness from which he was suffering. That it did so, or was the initiating cause, without which presumably the other events in his life would not have had the same effect on him, seemed to his Lordship to be speculation and guesswork. Accordingly, his Lordship would allow the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS said that damages for "normal" grief and suffering were too remote to be recoverable in law. The question in the present case was whether the damage for "normal" grief and the consequences of bereavement had to be discounted from the damages for nervous shock.

That particular issue was not covered in the authorities, and his Lordship would hold that the damages for nervous shock should not be discounted.

Nervous shock suffered in consequence of witnessing at first hand an accident involving a loved one as its primary victim was actionable in law. In principle, damages were recoverable for injury caused partly by the negligence of the defendant, even if there was another cause and the negligence was only a contributory cause: *Bonnington Castings v Wardlow* ([1956] AC 613).

Nervous shock, as distinct from grief and other emotional sufferings resulting from bereavement, was a kind of injury which was recognised by the law. Therefore, damages were recoverable for nervous shock caused, or at least contributed to, by actionable negligence of the defendant, notwithstanding that the illness might also have been regarded as a pathological consequence of the bereavement which the plaintiff would have inevitably have suffered.

Such a view of the law had advantages for the trial of cases such as the present one. It was unnecessary to research into the niceties of psychiatric medicine in order to discover whether part, and if so, what part, of the plaintiff's illness should be ascribed to bereavement rather than to the traumatic experience of witnessing the accident.

His Lordship could not see any policy reason for limiting the damages recoverable by a plaintiff who had established the right to sue. If the plaintiff was owed a duty of care, then he should recover damages for the injury which he had sustained.

After all, even if his illness was partly attributable to the pathological consequences of grief and bereavement, it was nevertheless caused by the defendant's negligent act, and the policy reasons which limited the scope and number of those to whom a duty was owed did not provide equal justification for limiting the damages recoverable by those who could sue.

Furthermore, the practical consequences of the submission for the defendants was as follows: Only a plaintiff who had a close and loving relationship with the primary victim could recover damages, but the damages would have to be assessed so as to exclude the consequences of the bereavement which the plaintiff must have suffered, if the loved one was killed. In his Lordship's view that would be an unrealistic and artificial exercise.

If the law was, simply, that a plaintiff was entitled to sue could recover damages for mental illness caused or contributed to by his involvement as a secondary victim of the accident, notwithstanding that his illness might also be described as, in part, a pathological grief reaction to the bereavement which he had suffered, then it was unnecessary to embark on the process which the judge, not surprisingly, found both abstract and difficult in the present case.

It was essentially on the issue of the evidence relating to the mental illness of the plaintiff that his Lordship differed from Lord Justice Stuart-Smith.

In his Lordship's judgment, the plaintiff suffered mental injury by reason of the accident and that that was contributed to, if not entirely caused, by the fact that he witnessed its aftermath as he did. However, in his Lordship's view, that was strictly irrelevant.

Mr Justice Sedley had held that witnessing the accident had been the initiating cause of the plaintiff's mental decline which began after the accident and continued thereafter, with further impetus from the subsequent failure of the business in 1986 and the breakdown of his marriage in 1992.

He also found that the failure of the business would not of itself have caused mental illness. There was evidence to support those conclusions and his Lordship did not feel that the Court of Appeal should interfere with them.

Lord Justice Thorpe delivered a judgment agreeing with Lord Justice Evans.

Solicitors: Howard Palser Grossman Hermer & Partners, Cardiff; Osborne Clarke, Bristol.

Curate is not an employee of church

Diocese of Southwark and Others v Coker

Before Judge Hull, QC, Mr K. Hack and Mr N. D. Willis

[Judgment March 25]

An assistant curate in the Church of England was not an employee for the purposes of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 and an industrial tribunal had no juridsiction to hear his complaint of unfair dismissal.

The decision in *In re National Insurance Act 1911, In re Employment of Church of England Curates* ([1912] 2 Ch 563), that the position of a curate was that of a holder of ecclesistical office and not of a person whose rights and duties were defined by contract, had not been overruled by more recent decisions.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when allowing an appeal by the Diocese of Southwark, the Bishop of Southwark and the Diocesan Board of Finance, from a decision of an industrial chairman (Professor R. W. Rideout) sitting at London (South) in February 1995 on a preliminary issue of law, that the tribunal had jurisdiction to hear a claim by Dr Alexander Coker that he had been unfairly dismissed when he was removed from the diocesan payroll in May 1994 after working as an assistant curate since December 1990.

Mr Paul Goulding for the Bishop and the Diocesan Board; Mr Joseph Hage for Dr Coker.

JUDGE HULL said that the Church of England was the established church in England and its formularies and constitution were part of the law of England. The law of the Church of England constituted a legal framework for the work of a Church of England priest which was unlike that of any secular employee.

In the *Employment of Church of England Curates* case the insurance commissioners raised the question whether the status of assistant curates was "employment". Mr Justice Parker said that he had come to the conclusion that "the position of a curate is the position of a person who holds an ecclesiatical office, and not the position of a person whose duties and rights are defined by contract at all".

In *President of the Methodist Conference v Parfitt* ([1994] ICR 176), the Court of Appeal held that a methodist minister was not employed under a contract of service and an industrial tribunal had no jurisdiction to hear his complaint of unfair dismissal.

Lord Justice Dillon had said that he had no hesitation in concluding that the relationship between a church and a minister of religion was not apt, in the absence of clear indications of a contrary intention, to be regulated by a contract of service.

In *Davies v Presbyterian Church of Wales* ([1986]) ICR 280), an ordained minister was dismissed from his pastorate. Lord Templeman in a unanimous decision of the House of Lords, had said: "A pastor is called and accepts the call ... His duties are defined and his activities are dictated not by contract but by conscience. He is the servant of God ... The duties owed by the church to the pastor are not contractual."

The law was plainly established by the highest authority; a priest of the Church of England appointed to an assistant curacy was not as a result of that appointment employed under a contract of service but was the holder of an ecclesistical office.

The chairman in his reasons stated that in his view the more recent decisions overruled the conclusion in the earlier cases that there could in no circumstances be a contract of employment between a stipendiary curate and a diocese of the Church of England. But in *Davies* Lord Templeman had expressly concluded that the duties owed by the pastor to the church and by the church to the pastor were not contractual.

The appeal would be allowed. An industrial tribunal had no jurisdiction to entertain the complaint.

Solicitors: Winckworth & Pemberton; Free Representation Unit.

Agreement by shareholders creates constructive trust

Neville and Another v Wilson and Others

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Rose and Lord Justice Aldous

[Judgment March 20]

An informal agreement for the liquidation of a family company by its shareholders and for the division of the company's equitable interests in the shares of another company among themselves was not rendered ineffectual by section 53 of the Law of Property Act 1925. Each shareholder's agreement to the liquidation created an implied or constructive trust for the other shareholders so that the requirement for writing was dispensed with by section 53(2).

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments allowing an appeal by the plaintiffs, Joseph Neville and Eileen Hill, two of the shareholders of J. E. Neville Ltd, from a decision by Mr Justice Morritt in February 1994 that 120 shares in Universal Engineering Co (Ellesmere Port) Ltd were held on trust by two of the defendants, Courtney Wilson and Lilian Neville, for the Crown as bona vacantia. The appeal was allowed on grounds that were not argued before the judge.

Section 53 of the 1925 Act provides: "(1) Subject to the provisions hereinafter contained with respect to the creation of interests in land by parol ... (c) a disposition of an equitable interest or trust subsisting at the time of the disposition must be in writing signed by the person disposing of the same...

"(2) This section does not affect the creation or operation of resulting, implied or constructive trusts."

Mr I. E. Jacob for the plaintiffs; Mr Simon Barker for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE, giving the judgment of the court, said that in 1969 the shareholders had entered into an agreement with one another for the informal liquidation of the company and thus, as part of it, for the division of the company's equitable interest in the shares in Universal Engineering in proportions corresponding to their existing shareholdings.

The question, which involved consideration of section 53 of the 1925 Act and a point left open by the House of Lords in *Oughtred v IRC* ([1960] AC 206), was whether the agreement had had the effect of disposing of the company's interest.

Each shareholder had collectively agreed to assign his interest in the other shares of the company's equitable interest in exchange for the assignment by the other shareholders of their interests in his own aliquot share. Each individual agreement having been a disposition of a subsisting equitable interest not made in writing, there thus arose the question whether it was rendered ineffectual by section 53.

The simple view was that the effect of each individual agreement was to constitute the shareholder an implied or constructive trustee for the other shareholders, so that the requirement for writing in section 53(1)(c) was dispensed with by subsection (2). That was the view taken by Mr Justice Upjohn at first instance in *Oughtred v IRC* ([1958] Ch 383, 390) and by Lord Radcliffe in the House of Lords (at p227).

There was nothing in the speeches in the House of Lords preventing the court from holding that the effect of each individual agreement was to constitute the shareholder an implied or constructive trustee for the other shareholders.

The analysis of Lord Radcliffe, based on the proposition that a specifically enforceable agreement to assign an interest in property created an equitable interest in the assignee, was unquestionably correct: see *London and South Western Railway Co v Gomm* ((1882) 20 ChD 563, 581). A greater difficulty was caused by Lord Denning's outright rejection of the application of section 53(2), with which Lord Cohen had appeared to agree.

Section 53(2) said that subsection (1)(c) did not affect the creation or operation of implied or constructive trusts. Just as in *Oughtred v IRC* the son's oral agreement created a constructive trust in favour of the mother, so here each shareholder's oral or implied agreement created an implied or constructive trust in favour of the other shareholders.

Why then should section 53(2) not apply? No convincing reason had been suggested or had occurred to the court. Moreover, to deny its application would be to restrict the effect of general words when no restriction was called for and to lay the ground for fine distinctions in the future. Subsection (2) applied to an agreement such as there was in the instant case.

Thus the agreement entered into by the shareholders was not ineffectual and the plaintiff were entitled to relief accordingly. That meant that the company's equitable interest in the 120 shares did not vest in the Crown as bona vacantia when the company was struck off the register in 1970, and cash now representing the shares would be divided proportionately between the plaintiffs and the defendants.

On grounds not argued before the judge the appeal was allowed.

Solicitors: Pannone & Partners, Manchester; Stockdale & Reid, North Shields.

Deciding youth's mode of trial on sentencing power

Regina v Inner London Youth Court, Ex parte Director of Public Prosecutions

Before Lord Justice Leggatt and Sir Iain Glidewell

[Judgment March 18]

When deciding mode of trial of a defendant aged between 14 and 17 under section 24(1)(a) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, justices should ask themselves whether a crown court could properly sentence the defendant to a period greater than two years for the offence charged and if so should commit for trial at the crown court.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when allowing an application by the Director of Public Prosecutions for judicial review of a decision of Inner London Youth Court, sitting at Balham, on September 29, 1995 stating that it was more suitable that the charges against C, a youth aged 15, be tried summarily and fixing a date for trial.

C was charged with causing grievous bodily harm with intent contrary to section 18 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861 and an offence of destroying a window contrary to section 1(1) of the Criminal Damage Act 1971.

The decision was quashed and an order of mandamus made requiring the justices to hold committal proceedings.

Mr John McGuinness for the DPP; Mr Gavin Millar for C; the justices did not appear and were not represented.

SIR IAIN GLIDEWELL said that the major issue was the interpretation of the words in section 24(1)(a) "it ought to be possible to sentence him in pursuance of that subsection".

The proper approach for a court was to ask itself would it be proper for a crown court sentencing the defendant for the offence of which he was charged to exercise its section 53(2) powers and sentence him to a period greater than two years.

If the answer was "yes", then it inevitably followed that justices or the youth court should make it possible for the crown court to sentence the defendant on that basis by committing for trial. Only if the nature of the offence was such that the crown court could not properly exercise its section 53(2) powers should the justices take the view they should not make it possible for the crown court to pass such a sentence.

It did not necessarily follow that the defendant if convicted would get a sentence greater than two years. But that such a possibility should follow flowed inevitably from the circumstances of the offence as alleged.

When did have to make such decisions with 15 year olds charged with serious offences, the justices, although not obliged by law to do so, would be well advised to seek their clerk's advice concerning the limits of their own powers and the guidance available.

If the court had done so in the present case they would have been referred to *Stone's Justices' Manual* with a footnote to section 24 referring to a number of cases. Those included *R v Fairhurst* ([1986] 1 WLR 1374) from which Mr McGuinness submitted that justices should always start with the view that a section 18 offence was one of exceptional gravity. The justices had considered the young age of the witnesses and the fact that it was open to the court to discontinue the summary trial and proceed by way of committal. Both were irrelevant considerations.

As a generality the court would take into account the age of witnesses and the desirability of disposing of the case, but those matters could not weigh against the clear words of section 24(1). If the court was obliged to make it possible for the crown court to convict other considerations became irrelevant.

Lord Justice Leggatt agreed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Special Case Unit; Fisher Meredith, Clapham.

Corrections

In *Begg-McBrearty (Inspector of Taxes) v Stilwell* (*The Times* March 15) the sixth line onwards of the first paragraph should have read: "... an interest in trust property was created by the exercise of a special power of appointment, contained in a discretionary settlement and thus was not 'an interest under an instrument made before' January 1, 1970..."

In *Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council v B* (*The Times* March 19) the word "ordinarily" was inadvertently omitted between "not" and "resident" in the the third lines of both the first and ninth paragraphs.

In *Boote (Inspector of Taxes) v Banco do Brasil SA* (*The Times* April 2) Mr Timothy Brennan appeared as junior to Mr McCall, QC, for the Crown.

NOTICE TO HALIFAX SAVINGS AND BANKING CUSTOMERS

	UK RATES				NON-RESIDENT RATES†		NON-PERSONAL RATES			
	GROSS p.a. %	GROSS C.A.R. %	NET p.a. %	NET C.A.R. %	GROSS p.a. %	GROSS C.A.R. %	GROSS p.a. %	GROSS C.A.R. %	NET p.a. %	NET C.A.R. %
SPECIAL RESERVE BOND*	5.90	-	4.72	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HALIFAX TESSA 2* Standard rate	5.65	-	-	-	5.65	-	-	-	-	-
Matured TESSA*	5.65	-	4.52	-	5.65	-	-	-	-	-
BONUS GOLD* (Including Bonus)										
£100,000+	5.75	-	4.60	-	5.60	-	5.35	-	4.28	-
£50,000+	5.45	-	4.36	-	5.30	-	5.15	-	4.12	-
£25,000+	5.25	-	4.20	-	5.10	-	4.95	-	3.96	-
£10,000+	5.00	-	4.00	-	4.85	-	4.80	-	3.84	-
Monthly Income Option (Including Bonus)										
£100,000+	5.62	5.75	4.50	4.58	5.47	5.60	5.23	5.35	4.18	4.26
£50,000+	5.33	5.45	4.26	4.34	5.19	5.30	5.04	5.15	4.03	4.10
£25,000+	5.14	5.25	4.11	4.18	5.00	5.10	4.85	4.95	3.88	3.94
£10,000+	4.90	5.00	3.92	3.98	4.76	4.85	4.71	4.80	3.77	3.83
SOLID GOLD*										
£50,000+	4.85	-	3.88	-	4.70	-	4.65	-	3.72	-
£25,000+	4.60	-	3.68	-	4.45	-	4.40	-	3.52	-
£10,000+	4.10	-	3.28	-	3.95	-	4.10	-	3.28	-
£5,000+	3.35	-	2.68	-	3.20	-	3.25	-	2.60	-
£500+	3.05	-	2.44	-	2.90	-	2.90	-	2.32	-
Monthly Income Option										
£50,000+	4.75	4.85	3.80	3.87	4.60	4.70	4.55	4.65	3.64	3.70
£25,000+	4.51	4.60	3.61	3.67	4.36	4.45	4.31	4.40	3.45	3.50
£10,000+	4.02	4.09	3.22	3.26	3.88	3.95	4.02	4.09	3.22	3.27
£5,000+	3.30	3.35	2.64	2.67	3.15	3.20	3.20	3.25	2.56	2.59
£500+	3.01	3.05	2.41	2.43	2.86	2.90	2.86	2.90	2.29	2.31
LIQUID GOLD*										
£25,000+	3.70	-	2.96	-	3.55	-	3.45	-	2.76	-
£10,000+	3.30	-	2.64	-	3.15	-	3.15	-	2.52	-
£5,000+	2.90	-	2.32	-	2.75	-	2.70	-	2.16	-
£2,500+	2.70	-	2.16	-	2.55	-	2.45	-	1.96	-
£500+	2.45	-	1.96	-	2.30	-	2.20	-	1.76	-
£50+	0.75	-	0.60	-	0.75	-	0.75	-	0.60	-
ASSET RESERVE CHEQUE ACCOUNT										
£50,000+	4.95	5.04	3.96	4.02	4.95	5.04	4.35	4.42	3.48	3.53
£25,000+	4.65	4.73	3.72	3.77	4.65	4.73	3.90	3.96	3.12	3.16
£10,000+	4.30	4.37	3.44	3.48	4.30	4.37	3.65	3.70	2.92	2.95
£5,000+	3.60	3.65	2.88	2.91	3.60	3.65	3.35	3.39	2.68	2.71
YOUNG SAVERS‡	3.10	3.12	2.48	2.50	3.10	3.12	-	-	-	-
MAXIM CURRENT ACCOUNT										
£2,000+	1.00	1.00	0.80	0.80	-	-	-	-	-	-
£50+	0.50	0.50	0.40	0.40	-	-	-	-	-	-
MAXIM										
Under 21 and Student Maxim‡	3.10	3.14	2.48	2.51	-	-	-	-	-	-
CARDCASH										
£50+	0.50	0.50	0.40	0.40	-	-	-	-	-	-
CARDCASH										
Under 21‡	3.10	3.12	2.48	2.50	-	-	-	-	-	-
MATURED FUNDS ACCOUNT*										
£10,000+	3.70	-	2.96	-	3.70	-	3.70	-	2.96	-
£2,000+	3.10	-	2.48	-	3.10	-	3.10	-	2.48	-
Monthly Income										
£10,000+	3.64	-	2.91	-	3.64	-	3.64	-	2.91	-
£2,000+	3.06	-	2.45	-	3.06	-	3.06	-	2.45	-
TREASURER'S ACCOUNT*										
£2,500+	4.20	-	3.36	-	-	-	4.20	-	3.36	-
£500+	3.65	-	2.92	-	-	-	3.65	-	2.92	-
£1+	0.75	-	0.60	-	-	-	0.75	-	0.60	-
CLOSED ISSUES										
TESSA Gold*	6.15	-	-	-	6.15	-	-	-	-	-
Including maturity bonus	6.27	-	-	-	6.27	-	-	-	-	-
Halifax TESSA*	5.65	-	-	-	5.65	-	-	-	-	-
Including maturity bonus	6.46	-	-	-	6.46	-	-	-	-	-
Deposit £500+	2.20	2.21	1.76	1.77	2.20	2.21	2.20	2.21	1.76	1.77
£50+	0.75	0.75	0.60	0.60	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.60	0.60
Monthly Savings £500+	2.20	2.21	1.76	1.77	2.20	2.21	-	-	-	-
£50+	0.75	0.75	0.60	0.60	0.75	0.75	-	-	-	-
7 Day Xtra £200+	1.65	1.66	1.32	1.32	1.65	1.66	-	-	-	-
Special Investment Account (1st Issue)	2.75	2.77	2.20	2.21	2.75	2.77	-	-	-	-
Special Investment Account (2nd Issue)	2.25	2.26	1.80	1.81	2.25	2.26	-	-	-	-
5 Year Term Share	2.60	2.62	2.08	2.09	2.60	2.62	-	-	-	-
Subscription Share	2.20	2.21	1.76	1.77	2.20	2.21	-	-	-	-
Matured Subscription Share	2.20	2.21	1.76	1.77	2.20	2.21	-	-	-	-

CHANGES TO RATES

Halifax Building Society announces new rates for certain savings and banking customers from 6th April 1996.

CLOSED ISSUES. If your account is a closed issue (one which is no longer available to new customers) you may close it without losing any interest if you transfer the money into any Halifax account. This does not apply to TESSA Gold and Halifax TESSA.

*The rates shown apply to both the deposit and share account versions of these products.

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Full account conditions and details of when interest is paid, and how to qualify for the TESSA Gold, Halifax TESSA, Halifax TESSA 2 and Bonus Gold bonuses, are available from any Halifax branch.

4th April 1996

Trinity Road, Halifax

HALIFAX

هدايا من الاجيال

■ FILM 1

Scotland's ebullient youth culture — a current cinematic obsession — is explored again in *Small Faces*

■ FILM 2

The feel-bad movie of the year? *Swimming With Sharks* shows Hollywood at its most sour

THE TIMES ARTS

■ FILM 3

Nadja gives many a quirky twist to the world of vampires, stakes and unhealthy appetites

■ FILM 4

Don't get caught in the crops ...yes, Hitchcock's *North by Northwest* is back in a fine new print

CINEMA: **Geoff Brown** sees Scotland's reputation for quality product upheld by Gillies MacKinnon's *Small Faces*

Triumph sealed with a Glasgow kiss

Thirty years and more ago, British cinema gave itself a much-needed blood transfusion by going north. In *Room at the Top*, *A Taste of Honey* and other trophies of the British New Wave, film-makers discovered Lancashire accents, slag-heaps, factory chimneys, cobbled streets and mist hovering over canals.

Now British cinema ventures further north for its rejuvenation, to Scotland. Films such as *Shallow Grave* and *Trainspotting* feed off the raw energy of Scottish people and the urban landscape. In **Small Faces**, the latest and best film from Gillies MacKinnon, written with his brother Billy, the camera feasts on Glasgow's housing blocks, marooned in wasteland: on a front door's lurid coloured glass: on the pin-ups in a teenager's room.

MacKinnon (see *interview, far right*) was born and bred in Glasgow. With *Small Faces*, co-financed by BBC Films, BBC Scotland and the Glasgow Film Fund, he has made a finely crafted and powerful evocation of childhood.

The story begins in high spirits, as we meet the three McLean brothers, growing up in Glasgow in 1968. The eldest, Bobby, runs with the local gang, the Glens. The middle one, Alan, skilled at painting, looks forward to art school. The youngest, Lex, is 13, a mischievous kid who sparks the drama by firing an airgun and wounding Malky, psychotic leader of a rival gang, the Tongs. Charlie Sloan, the flashy Glen boss who flaunts a blue-striped suit with six outside pockets, takes Alan and "wee man" Lex under his wing. But by the end the pranks have turned nasty. Blood has been shed at an ice-rink; gas explodes in a tower block. Lex remains 13, but his age of innocence is over.

MacKinnon has always favoured an aggressive style, pushing his films forward with angled shots and high-impact editing. *Small Faces* keeps up the pace, and never attempts a documentary surface. But there is less sense of strain than usual; and, by filtering the film through Lex's eyes, MacKinnon finds room for the eerie magic of a goldfish in close-up, or a fleeting glimpse of a circus elephant being led through the night-time gloom.

Small Faces
Warner West End
18, 108 mins
Marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood

Swimming with Sharks
MGM Haymarket
15, 90 mins
Kevin Spacey in a jet-black Hollywood satire

Nadja
ICA Cinema, 100 mins
Offbeat adventures of Dracula's offspring

North by Northwest
Lumiere, PG, 136 mins
Hitchcock's thriller, as entertaining as ever

The script may not be directly autobiographical, but the MacKinnon brothers clearly write from the heart, and the cast, chosen largely from Glasgow teenagers, does full justice to their creations. There is no mistaking the plucky spirit of Iain Robertson's Lex, the peacock vanity of Garry Sweeney's Sloan, or the freewheeling violence of Kevin McKidd's Malky, his face adorned with ever more cuts, bumps and plasters as the minutes pass.

Satires about Hollywood do not get much darker than **Swimming with Sharks**, an awkward but notable first feature by George Huang, made in 1994 under the title *The Buddy Factor*. Its late arrival in this country testifies to its bleak spirit: this is the "feel-bad" movie *par excellence*.

Kevin Spacey plays Buddy Ackerman, a monstrous studio executive who delights in tearing assistants to shreds, and Frank Whaley's Guy is perfect shredding material. But the worm finally turns and pays Ackerman back with physical violence. The multiple abuse is painful to watch; the more so since Spacey adopts no comic inflections, even when yelling: "My bathmat means more to me than you!"

Huang adopts a plain visual style. Words and plot count here. There are some structural flaws, and Huang does not know how to handle the one woman character, a wily producer. But the film bristles enjoyably with inside knowledge and is so sour about Hollywood that it makes Altman's *The Player* seem like a valentine.

What do you do when your dad is Dracula? This is the heroine's problem in **Nadja**, a slow but mesmerising American independent movie from Michael Almereyda. His last film, *Another Girl, Another Planet*, used a cheap Fisher-Price toy camera to create fractured, dream-like images. *Nadja*, shot in black-and-white, uses the same disorientating technique for Nadja's vampire urges as she moves through the night in contemporary New York.

Nadja wishes she did not have a blood lust; but family ties are not easily broken, least of all by the stake driven through her father's heart. "Dad's dead," Nadja tells her estranged twin, Edgar — a difficult line to say with a flourish. Indeed Elina Löwensohn, a dark European presence in several Hal Hartley films, impresses most when she stays silent and lets her mask-like face do the work.

Löwensohn is not the only cast member with an offbeat pedigree. Van Helsing, the dedicated vampire hunter, is fancifully portrayed by Peter Fonda, cycling round Manhattan in Victorian clothes, while David Lynch, the executive producer, lends his own zombie presence to the tiny role of a morgue attendant.

But for all the self-conscious style and convoluted plot twists, the film pays respect to genre conventions. Most current horror piles up so much gross spectacle that daily life is left behind; but as Dracula's brood wrestles with its inheritance you realise anew how close horror can take you to the basic facts of love and desire, pain and death.

I have seen Hitchcock's **North by Northwest** numerous times, but never before this revival have I taken such note of the yellow boxer shorts that Cary Grant reveals as he changes clothes in a hotel room. They appear so bright in this new 35mm print that they almost burn your eyes.

The film's playful story influenced later spy capers, although no successor could match Hitch's ingenuity, the droll wit of Ernest Lehman's script, or Bernard Herrmann's turbulent music. And for sheer entertainment, *North by Northwest* still delivers. Treat yourself.

Out on the town: Bobby (Stephen Duffy) joins the Glen gang in the recreated streets of 1960s Glasgow in Gillies MacKinnon's *Small Faces*

TO INFINITY AND BEYOND

"IT'S UNSENTIMENTAL, POLITICALLY INCORRECT & BREATHTAKINGLY REALISED"
DAILY TELEGRAPH

"DAZZLING, A RICH MIX OF HUMOUR"
THE TIMES

"BREATHTAKING, HILARIOUS, ORIGINAL"
★★★★★
EMPIRE MAGAZINE

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'By lads about lads'

SNAP VERDICT

Every week young film fans discuss the new releases.

SMALL FACES

Katherine Wright, 18: An uncompromising film punctuated with wry humour, but pacey and poignant.

Suzie Gilbert, 18: An intelligent film by lads about lads. Perceptive and funny. However, at times, perhaps it was a film *just* for the lads.

Andrew Gilham, 21: Another good Scottish film that may be left trailing in the wake of *Trainspotting*. There was the same reversal of emotions from happiness to depression, and comfort to shock. Well directed but probably 20 minutes too long.

Jenny Dawson, 20: The balance of wit and violence made it a great film. Humorous and disturbing, although perhaps padded in places. Well worth seeing.

SWIMMING WITH SHARKS

Katherine: Inane. A plot bereft of intrigue and originality. Insipid cast.

Suzie Gilbert: The cast of three is meant to represent the whole of Hollywood in this frustratingly repetitive film, which delivers nothing new to the idea of "It's a tough road to the top".

Andrew: A well-written film with excellent acting, especially by Kevin Spacey.

Jenny Dawson: The weakness of Guy (Frank Whaley) made me cringe and I was bored by the repetitive scenes. The tedium was only lifted through the final twist.

NADJA

Katherine: Dark and depressing. Convoluted storyline, non-compelling characters, although the occasional bland joke gave relief.

Suzie: No surprise to find out that David Lynch was associated with this film. The superb use of sound, and black and white film, didn't hide the fact that this was an embarrassment in every other respect.

Andrew: I found my concentration slipping because the action moved too slowly. An average film enhanced by the chilling sound-effects.

Jenny: With regard to cinematography and choice of sound track, *Nadja* had potential. Unfortunately, the casting and sadistic humour did little to pick up the slow pace.

Ros Drinkwater meets the man who spurned a big name for *Small Faces*

Sorry, Marlon, I'm too busy

Gillies MacKinnon has made his reputation with a series of films praised for their honesty and social realism, but he is probably best known as the man who turned down the chance to direct Marlon Brando. "It's a great story," he admits, "but very misleading and so embarrassing. I'd give my eye teeth to direct Brando, but when he asked me I was fully committed to *Small Faces*."

As things worked out, while the £10 million Brando project ground to an early halt, *Small Faces* — shot in 30 days on a £1.2 million budget — won the Best British Picture award at the 1995 Edinburgh Film Festival and has sold around the world.

MacKinnon's interest in cinema began while he was studying mural painting at the Glasgow School of Art. "I began to realise that there was a connection between cinema and art, that it wasn't just there for entertainment." But he was in no hurry to be a film-maker: "To be honest, there are so many things to do in life, aren't there?"

So he taught art at a north London comprehensive with an 80 per cent immigrant intake. "That was a great experience for me, coming from Glasgow, where the only difference was whether you were Protestant or Catholic." There, he used the camera as a tool, as a way of relating to the children. "We made adventure films on Hampstead Heath where they ran around in armour having a great time."

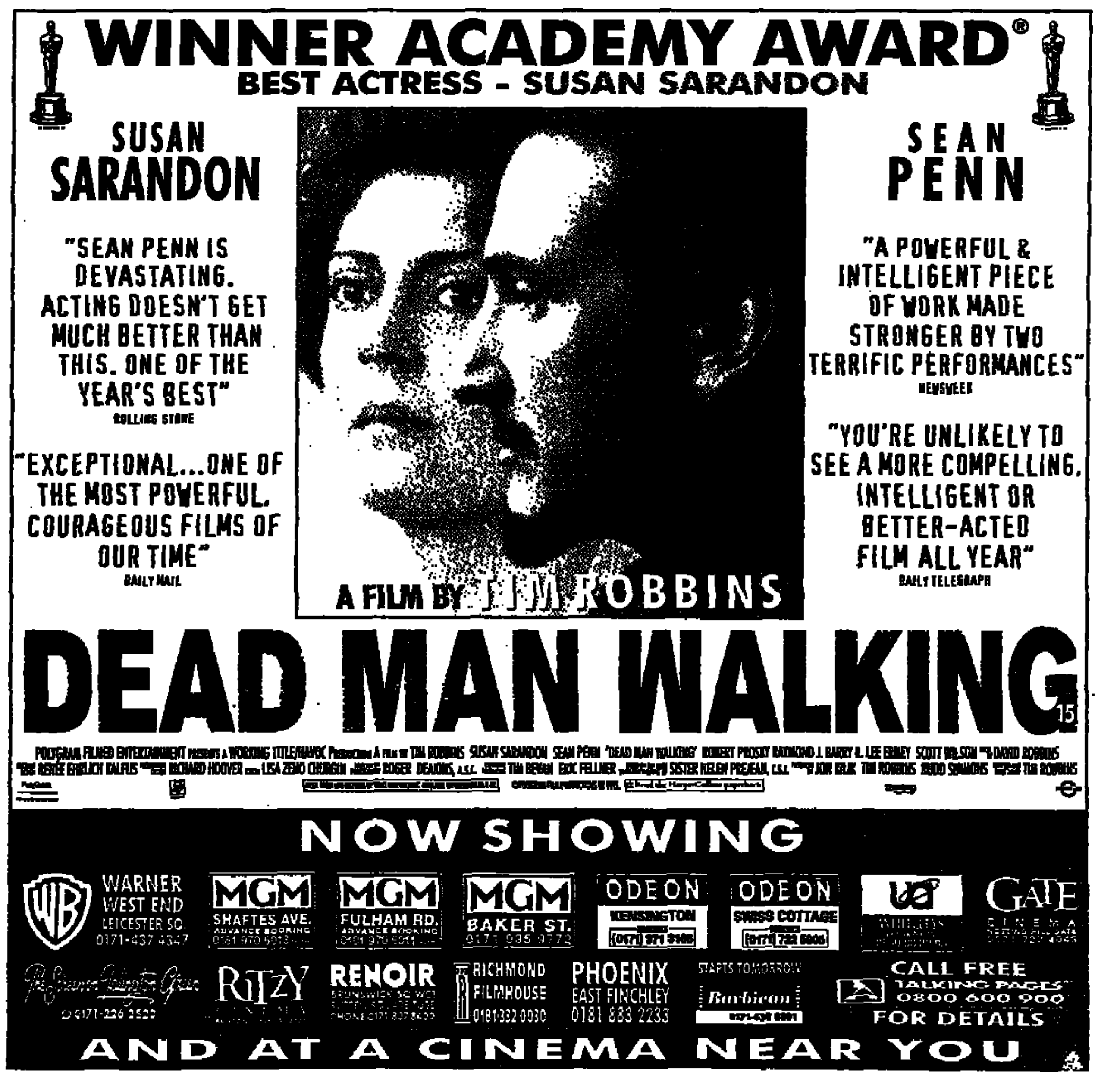
At the age of 28 ("in search of one big last adventure") he went to Africa and joined a tribe of Tuaregs carrying millet 500 miles across the Sahara. "I had the idea to make a film from stills images of the desert, but the camera jammed. The Tuaregs didn't know what to make of me — my coat over my head, trying to push the film through the camera by hand. The whole idea was doomed."

Back in London he worked as a cartoonist, returned to teaching and finally, at the age of 34, enrolled at the National Film School, "a case of now or never". A year later, after graduation, he found himself in Hollywood, where his film school tutors, Shane Connaughton and Kerry Crabbe insisted he be hired to direct their script for *The Playboys*, starring Albert Finney. The movie was a hit and MacKinnon accepted an offer from Steve Martin to direct *A Simple Twist of Fate*, Martin's film treatment of *Silas Marner*. He describes his time in Hollywood as "a three-year love affair", but eventually, homesick for his wife Francesca and their two young daughters, and itching to make *Small Faces*, he headed back to Britain.

He wrote the script for *Small Faces* with Billy, his younger brother. Billy was in Australia, script-editing Jane Campion's *The Piano*, so the brothers wrote the script by fax. From the outset they had decided to do it on a shoestring, rather than face casting compromises.

Small Faces probably owes its existence to the deep impression made on MacKinnon by the Italian classic, *Rocco and His Brothers*. "Who should be at the Edinburgh Film Festival but Suco Cecchi D'Amico, its co-author? My daughter tells me that at one point I was literally on my knees to this 80-year-old lady, saying 'Please come and see our film, you were such an influence on us'." It was only then that it dawned on him that a scene in his film, where a young boy steals a shirt, was lifted straight from *Rocco*.

"It was completely unconscious. I said, 'Look, I'm really sorry about this', and she said: 'I do it all the time. When you see something you love, it becomes your own, so you can't steal it.' Which I thought was a pretty generous statement."



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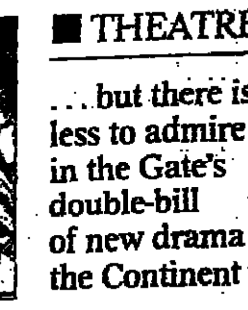
VENUE: Now in preview at the Barbican

THE TIMES ARTS

■ THEATRE 1

Discovered at the Bush: a fine new drama from the pen of a 26-year-old playwright



■ THEATRE 2

. . . but there is less to admire in the Gate's double-bill of new drama from the Continent

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

HANDLEY'S ROMANTICS Vernon Handley conducts the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in a programme of full-blooded Romantic music. Tonight's concert is tailor-made for Handley's approach: Rachmaninov's Symphony No 2 and Elgar's Cello Concerto played by Steven Isserlis.
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). 7.30pm ♿

ORFEO David Freeman revives his production for English National Opera of Monteverdi's version of the legend of Orpheus. Although first seen 15 years ago, Freeman's depiction of a community coming together in the face of bereavement never loses its power. The Belgian tenor Guy de Mey leads the cast and Nicholas Kok conducts.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8000). Tonight, 7.30pm ♿

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW First night of previews for Michael Siberry and Josie Lawrence at the centre of Gale Edwards's secular but award-winning production from last year's Stratford.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Previews tonight-Apr 8, 7.15pm, mat Sat, 2pm. Opens Apr 9, 7pm. Then in rep with *Romeo and Juliet* ♿

ELSEWHERE

BRADFORD The Posse start a ten-venue tour tonight, drawing from the best sketches of their last two shows to make *Rent Money*. Next dates for Britain's best black comedy troupe include Birmingham Rep, Lewisham Theatre and Coventry Belgrade.
St George's Hall, Bridge Street (01274 752000). Tonight, Fri and Sun, 7.30pm ♿

DARLINGTON: Skulduggery and deception abound as Frederick Knott's **Dial M For Murder** continues its national tour. Peter Davis and Catherine Rabett star as the married couple with secret passions, with Peter Bourke, Richard Lintern and John Vine. A Mobile Touring Theatre production.
Civic, Parkgate ♿ (01325 486555). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mats today and Sat, 2pm. Next week: **High Wycombe**, Swan (01494 512000)

STIRLING Scottish Chamber Orchestra begins a whistle-stop tour with an all-Beethoven programme. Raymond Leppard conducts, with violinist Cho-Liang Lin.
MacRobert Arts Centre, University of Stirling ♿ (01786 461081). Tonight, 8pm. Tomorrow: **Aberdeen** Music Hall ♿ (01224 641122). Sat: **Edinburgh** Queen's Hall (0131-6677776)

SNAPE Philip Pickett, artistic director of this third **Aldeburgh Early Music Festival**, opens the weekend with his New London Consort and a semi-staged, fully costumed Easter "processional" concert. On Good Friday, Ivor Bolton and the Britten-Pears Baroque Orchestra offer masterpieces of the French Baroque. Other highlights include Monteverdi madrigals by Concerto Italiano, an illustrated talk on the Globe Theatre in London, Elizabethan and Jacobean music, children's events and the chamber ensemble Hausmusik performing works by Mendelssohn, Rossini and Schubert.
Festival Box Office, High Street, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, IP15 5AX (01728 453543), until Apr 6

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Okyo and Kyoto paintings (0171-636 1555) . . **Llewellyn Alexander Gallery**: A Million Brushstrokes IV: miniatures (0171-620 1322) . . **National Gallery**: Old Master paintings from Rome's Doria Pamphilj Gallery (0171-747 2885) . . **National Portrait Gallery**: David Livingstone and the Victorian Encounter with Africa (0171-306 0055) . . **Royal Academy**: Gustave Caillebotte (0171-439 7438) . . **Serpentine**: Jean-Michel Basquiat paintings (0171-723 9072) . . **Tate**: Cézanne; Still But Not Silent: Still Lifes (0171-887 8000) . . **V & A**: Leighton Frescoes (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **BONDAGERS** Sue Glover's richly atmospheric drama following four women of the 1860s at work on a Borders farm. Ian Brown's superb Traverse production.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Tonight-Sat, 8pm; mats today and Sat, 3pm ♿

☐ **BROTHERS OF THE BRUSH**
Award-winning first play from yet another Irish prodigy. Jimmy Murphy's comic tragedy of three Dublin house painters pitted against each other by their demanding boss.
Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 2334). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 5.30 and 8.30pm. No perf Apr 5 and 8

◪ **CHOICE CHUNKS** Ken Campbell gives an evening of excerpts from his sublimely bizarre, rambling, captivating solo shows. A liberating experience.
Watermans, High Street, Brentford (0181-568 1176). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm

☐ **COMPANY** Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sondheim's bittersweet musical on marriage, pro and contra.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

◪ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm

◪ ***THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)*** The RSC's (Reduced Shakespeare Company) popular, potty rough-handling of the Bard. The Complete History of America (abridged) plays Tues.
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1737). Wed-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm and Sun, 4pm. ♿

◪ **SKYLIGHT**: Outstanding playing by Michael Gambon and Lia Williams in David Hare's dramatisation of society's conflicts in the form of a prickly reunion between two lovers.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 3pm

◪ **A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC** Elegant and successful production by Sean Mathias of Sondheim's Swedish charmer. With Judi Dench, Patricia Hodge, Sian Phillips, Lambert Wilson among the stars shining in the night.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Mon, 7.15pm; mat Sat, 2pm. No perf Apr 5; in rep ♿

◪ **TOMMY**: *Hugely impressive staging of the traumatised child's apotheosis to pinball wizard.*
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ♿

◪ **VICTORIANA**: New political play by David Hart, this time about Disraeli, Gladstone and the latter's concern for prostitutes. Jon Harris directs.
New End, 27 New End, NW3 (0171-794 0022). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Tue-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 4.30pm. ♿

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) . . ◪ **Fame: The Musical**: Cambridge (0171-494 5083) . . . ☐ **Funny Money**: Playhouse (0171-839 4401) . . ☐ **Mack and Mabel**: Piccadilly (0171-369 1734) . . ☐ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) ◪ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) ◪ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) . . ◪ **The Woman In Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **BALTO** (U): Bland animated film about the canine hero of a 1925 [illegible] in Alaska. Director Simon Wells.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** ♿ (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **CUTTHROAT ISLAND** (PG): Redundant pirate movie with two miscast stars (Geena Davis, Matthew Modine). Director Renny Harlin.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

DEAD MAN WALKING (15): Oscar winner Susan Sarandon visits Sean Penn on Death Row. Powerful, carefully balanced drama about capital punishment. Director Tim Robbins.
Gate ♿ (0171-727 4043) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **DUNSTON CHECKS IN** (PG): Orang-utan causes havoc in a five-star hotel. Perky family comedy with Jason Alexander, Rupert Everett and Faye Dunaway. Director, Ken Kwapis.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **LAWNMOWER MAN 2: BEYOND CYBERSPACE** (12): Patrick Bergin and kids battle Matt Frewer in the land of virtual reality. Moderate high-tech fantasy, directed by Farhad Mann.
Odeon West End (01426 915574)

◆ **SGT. BILKO** (PG): Crass spin-off from Phil Silvers's television comedy classic, with Steve Martin as the conniving army sergeant. With Dan Aykroyd. Director, Jonathan Lynn.
Empire ♿ (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

CURRENT

◆ **CASINO** (18): Scorsese's epic of Las Vegas in the 1970s: glorious background detail, but the human drama flags. With Robert De Niro, Sharon Stone and Joe Pesci.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

DESPERADO (18): Overblown follow-up to *El Mariachi*, with Antonio Banderas as the guitar-playing killer seeking vengeance. Director, Robert Rodriguez.
Warner ♿ (0171-437 4343)

FRENCH TWIST (18): Jovial French farce with a lesbian angle from writer-director Josiane Balasko, who co-stars with Victoria Abril.
MGMs: Fulham Rd (0171-370 2636) **Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561) **Tottenham Ct Rd** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

◆ **GET SHORTY** (15): John Travolta's loanshark takes on the movie business. Entertaining but trivial comedy, with Danny De Vito, Gene Hackman, Rene Russo.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **JUMANJI** (PG): Exhilarating romp about a rainforest board game that comes to life. With Robin Williams.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **TOY STORY** (PG): Computer-animated Disney delight with a cast of fretful toys, voiced by Tom Hanks and Tim Allen. Director, John Lasseter.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426-915 683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

Lonely hunters of the heart

MARILYN KINGWILL

Michael Cashman, Neil Stuke and John Light: excellent in Samuel Adamson's impressive *Clocks and Whistles*

THEATRE

Clocks and Whistles
Bush

If Dominic Dromgoole had wanted to astound us, his last production as director of the Bush should have been *Twelfth Night* in Elizabethan costume or maybe a solid Edwardian revival of *The Winslow Boy*. Instead, he has done the predictable thing. He has discovered yet another striking, sophisticated dramatist who only a few years ago was bouncing about his playpen in a nappy. This time the name is Samuel Adamson, the age 26.

Characterisation and dialogue are currently more Adamson's forte than narrative momentum, but even here he is no flop. You will want to know what happens to Henry, the uptight young publisher who feels he is on the periphery of several lives and at the centre of none. What is the future of his friendship with Anne, the aspiring actress who alternatively uses and ignores him? Will he have an affair with Trevor, the soi-disant poet from Paddington? Henry has, you see, glumly accepted his homosexuality since what appears to have been a dismal encounter with a girl he hired from an escort agency.

Adamson has caught the feel of a mildly louche, vaguely bohemian young London that sometimes puts one in mind of Isherwood's Berlin. Indeed, that may be his intention, for someone compares Anne to Sally Bowles, and one instantly sees the resemblance. Kate Beckinsale gets the self-conscious poise, the noli-me-tangere narcissism, the hint of trouble somewhere beneath. It is a lovely performance; but then so are those around her.

Neil Stuke is Trevor, a farmer's boy who wanders the London fleshpots, picking up and dropping lovers male and female, and writing endless verse that nobody has the heart to tell him is awful. Michael Cashman is Anne's one-time sugar-daddy, a supercilious English businessman who tries to pass as American, and Melanie Thaw an edgy, mannered sculptor who may and may not be having an affair with a priest.

What they have in common, and what gives the play unity, is rootlessness and isolation. The London that Adamson evokes is a pretty cold place, where theatre and opera are a lot more available than attachments that matter. Certainly, that seems to be the view of John Light's Henry. He is mocked, patronised, snubbed at his own birthday supper, and treated as gooseberry when Trevor launches into a fling with Anne.

The rejection and jealousy he claims to feel could, I suppose, go deeper. But then Adamson is writing *Goodbye to Paddington*, not *Othello*. And whom are you more likely to find in London now — a majestically angry Moor, or a Henry, sulkily exuding awkward desperation from inside a baggy tweed jacket?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Wurst-case scenario

Sugar Dollies/ After The Rain
Gate, Notting Hill

HERE comes the latest double-bill in the Gate's Biennale season of Europe's new plays. First, from Berlin, we have *Sugar Dollies*. This is Klaus Chatten's after-the-Wall and off-the-wall vision of a bizarre bunch of women. Rosy is an out-of-work actress turned cultural terrorist who makes directors sick by impersonating Penthesilea ripping Achilles to bits with her pit-bulls. Then there is Babette, the bigoted, petit-bourgeois mother who sports a Superman outfit and has a German sausage in her Thermos. She is still trying to be boss with her full-grown but sexually retarded daughter Tabea who, by the by, has terminated Daddy by poisoning the schnapps.

Easties and Westies, Chatten's ladies are thrown together in auditions for a blind-date game show and share certain traits. They have attacks of theatricality, are on the verge of going barking (literally), and inhabit a world without admirable father-figures.

Young director Indhu Rubasingham's production is commendably firm. Katrina Levon, both intense and funny, powers through her part as Rosy, conveying both instability and fearsome assertiveness. Nina Conti imbues the dumpy Tabea with odd glimmers of sexiness and angelic serenity. Anthony Vivas's translation is lively, but the cast cannot stop the characters' endless *non sequiturs* becoming a drag.

Sergi Belbel's *After the Rain* manages to be absorbing and amusing and very cranky. This Catalan play is set on top of a cloud-scraping office block where all the secret smokers, from the secretaries (superbly costumed by Johanna Coe like chic yet ridiculous cartoons) to the company directors, sneak out for nicotine fixes. They pair off, scrabble over promotions or go over the edge (bemusingly to re-enter soon after).

Gaynor Macfarlane's cast skilfully steer between relaxed naturalism and stylised archetypes. There are fine performances from Steven Elder as the nerdy computer programmer; Nicholas Bolton who, as the head of administration, flicks effortlessly between the slick, satanic and the silly; and Bonnie Engstrom whose moon-faced secretary is at once otherworldly, mad as a hatter and hard-headed. Ultimately, perhaps, this play builds to nothing; but en route it is very funny and strangely intriguing.

KATE BASSETT

Double delight

A Week's Worth
Almeida

IRENE Worth will be 80 this coming Midsummer Day, and if we regard Midsummer Night as the night before the day, then she was a Midsummer Night's babe. Surely such babes are specially blessed, but also among the blessed are those who have seen one of this incomparable actress's performances, seen that high-cheekboned face light up in one of her wide, sorrowful smiles, heard the deep chuckle of her voice fade into silence.

She gave her first London performance at the Lyric, Hammersmith, exactly 50 years ago and since then has adorned the British stage. The other day someone asked why she had not been made a dame and was astonished to learn that she is American, born in Nebraska. She does seem to have played few Americans over here but this Saturday evening she can be heard being the cultivated New Yorker in *A Portrait of Edith Wharton*, the last in a week of solo performances.

Tonight, in *The Gypsy and the Yellow Canary* her subject is Prosper Mérimée: for Friday evening and the Saturday matinee she is joined by Peter Eyre for *The Letters of George Sand and Flaubert*, which I was able to see at a preview.

The stage is furnished simply with a chaise longue and an armchair; Worth sits, reclines and eventually dies in the chaise longue, for this is Sand in the last years of her life, long after the tempestuous affair with Chopin. She is the optimistic, bestselling author, and although it is possible to doubt the sincerity of her proclaimed readiness to sleep among the cinders of Flaubert's kitchen, she is not above mopping up after her grandchildren.

The letters, ingeniously assembled by Eyre, build into a remarkably detailed double-portrait of two old troubadours, as they call themselves. Flaubert grinds away at his novels, Sand dashes hers off at top speed; they speak so vividly of their feelings that their very different characters take clear shape before us.

Worth's hair is now as silver as a dandelion clock, but her large, limpid eyes have lost none of that quality of seeming to look into a time long gone, or an incommunicable future. Her voice, delicately emphatic, reveals the heart. They *listen* to each other, the vital element in making a recital of letters into a dialogue. Eyre's deep, melodious voice ranges between rage at the world's stupidity and a sense of fun. Seventy-five minutes of pleasure.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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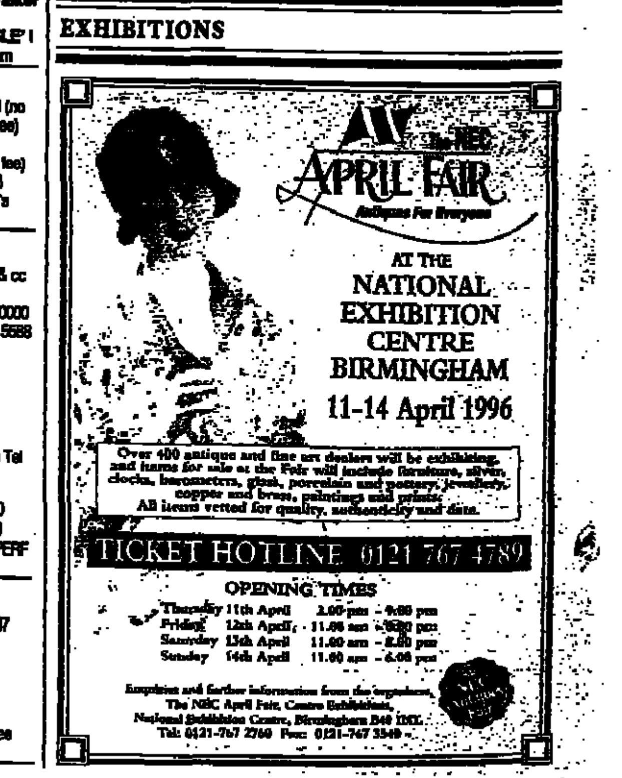

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■ HERITAGE

A stunning new museum is just one delight of Copenhagen's year as Europe's cultural capital

■ PUBLISHING

Hans Christian Andersen for 60p: Penguin launches its bid to woo thrifty children

THE TIMES ARTS

■ OPERA

Limp direction does a disservice to Gluck in Scottish Opera's new staging of *Alceste*

■ TOMORROW

Passions of centuries: why Good Friday has inspired great composers of every age

OPERA

Gluck done no favours

IT IS brave indeed of Scottish Opera to mount a new production of *Alceste*. Gluck's opera is notoriously difficult to bring off and, since it is about nobility of spirit and self-sacrifice, very much a "period piece". Apart from the musical and vocal challenges, it needs a great deal of help from a director, if the mood of unremitting gloom is not to grow a mite oppressive. In the first act Admète is dying and Alceste resolves to die in his place: in the second they argue about which of them will perish: and in the third they repeat the arguments at the gates of the underworld.

Help is precisely what it didn't get on Tuesday from the producer-designer Yannis Kokkos. The chorus, limply directed, was dressed in black throughout; lighting was dim, decor nondescript, blocking unimaginative. In no sense did the concept match the grandeur of Gluck's vision. The dreaded name Figure of Death appeared in the cast list; this was the (not very good) choreographer giving herself something to do, though in hogging the stage at both the first and third-act curtains she was giving herself a great deal too much to do. Enough: this dismal affair

Alceste
Theatre Royal, Glasgow

is a co-production with the Opéra de Nice, whither it should be dispatched as swiftly as possible on a strictly one-way basis.

The soloists, then, were out there on their own. Isabelle Vernet is one of the great white hopes of French singing. A pupil of Régine Crespin, she looks like her mentor — a fine, upright presence — and indeed sounds like her. Her soprano is full and luscious and she phrases with plangent eloquence, especially when singing softly. But, as with Crespin, the sound can grow strident under pressure at the top; *Ah, malgré moi* started beautifully but the outburst of terror at the end — admittedly driven at breakneck speed by Nicholas McGegan, the conductor — fell less than easily upon the ear.

Mark Padmore's Admète was smoothly, a touch bloodlessly, phrased in decent French, but Matthew Best's High Priest (doubling as Apollo, who slouched around in a black raincoat and Homburg hat) gave everyone a lesson in pungent projection. The coryphées were strongly cast, Lisa Milne especially lovely in *Parez vos fronts*. Matthew Elton Thomas's Hercules was defeated by the production.

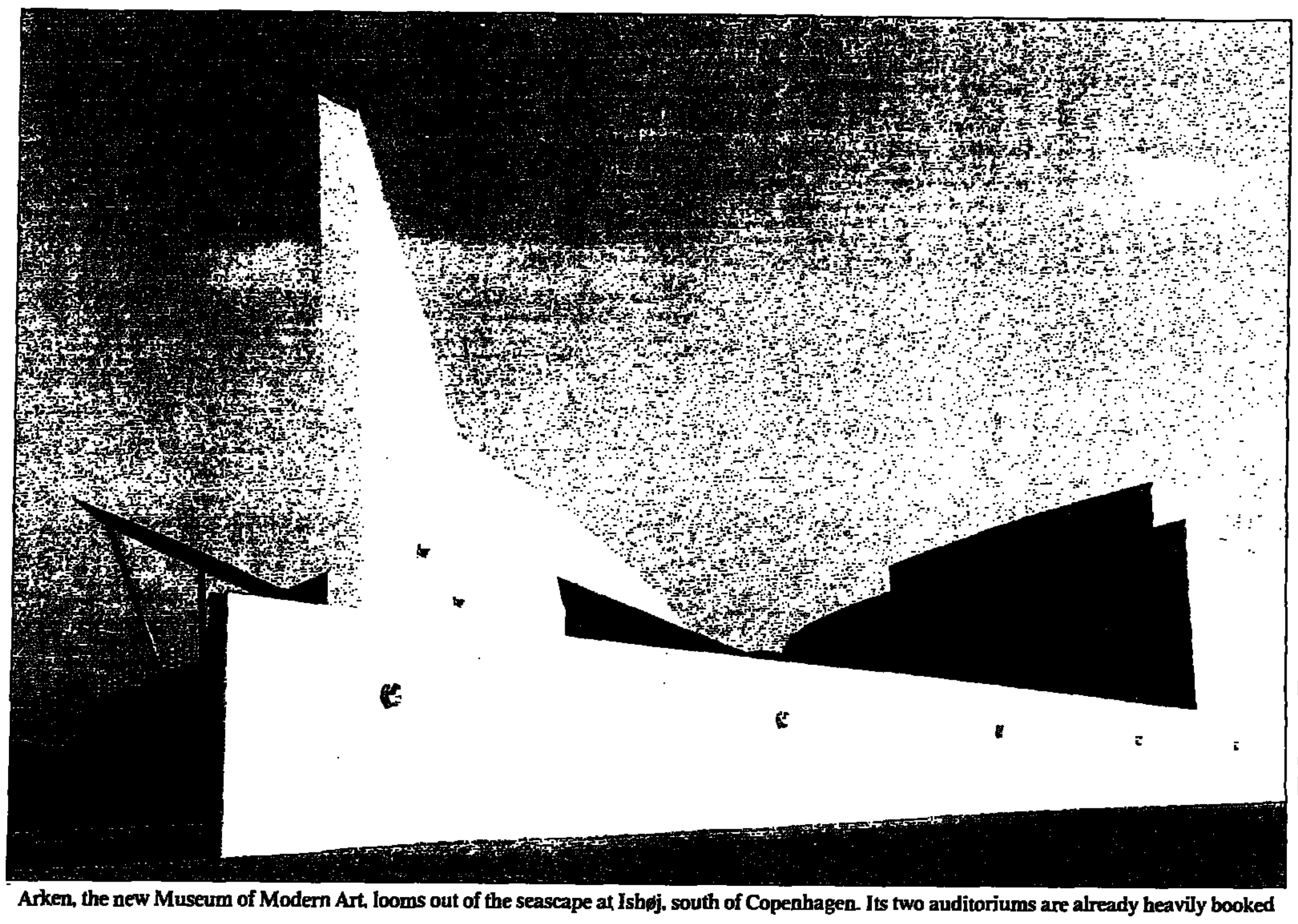
McGegan's reading of the score was, of course, innocent of portentousness, but not quite as lithe as expected. The sound was string-heavy, the wind tending to get lost in the Theatre Royal's deep pit. The hideous danger in Gluck of "saw-saw", "plod-plod" was not entirely avoided, and one longed for more accentuation of the actual shape of the phrases.

In a good performance *Alceste* — or so its supporters (I am one) maintain — can be one of the most uplifting of experiences; in a less than good performance it can come perilously close to tedium.

RODNEY MILNES

Copenhagen is putting on a class act as 'Cultural Capital of Europe', **Barry Millington** writes

Here for the Dane attraction



Arken, the new Museum of Modern Art, looms out of the seascape at Ishøj, south of Copenhagen. Its two auditoriums are already heavily booked

In Denmark they are talking about Søren Robert Lund's stunning new design for the Museum of Modern Art in the same breath as the Sydney Opera House (also built by a Dane). It is indeed a sensational concept: looming out of the seascape at Ishøj, 20 kilometres south of Copenhagen, the new museum, Arken, resembles a huge ocean liner with its repertoire of nautical motifs.

Arken opened last month with an exhibition of the Expressionist painter Emil Nolde, but the two auditoriums installed (one a cinema/conference room) are already heavily booked for chamber music and piano recitals, even opera. Per Nørgaard's *Det Guddommelige Tivoli* (The Divine Circus) was performed by an avant-garde ensemble from St Gall at the end of March, and a series of performances of Niels Rosing-Schow's new opera *Dommen* has just been announced for October.

The latter is an initiative of the Royal Danish Opera, which is thriving under its British director Elaine Padmore. The chief problem for this opera house is the enviable one of not having enough seats for clamouring patrons. "You cannot get tickets for the opera," Klas Sjöblom, Padmore's associate opera director, told me.

The theatre holds only 1,360 people, and after subscription sales, there are usually some 50 tickets available per performance. Government subsidies of 90 per cent enable them to offer tickets ranging from £5 to £30 and opera audiences in Copenhagen are refreshingly unstuffy. Accusations of metropolitan favouritism have been countered by tours to outlying Jutland.

Before Padmore, the Opera was insular in its outlook: works were usually performed in Danish, by native singers, and the local orchestral and conducting talent left something to be desired. Danish singers still provide the backbone of the roster — with rising stars such as Poul Elming, Eva Johansson and Tina Kiberg — that is a reasonable policy. But nowadays operas are generally performed in the original language, with supertitles; moreover, the average age of the orchestra has dropped (through natural wastage) by 15 to 17 years in recent times, and conductors are more frequently brought in from abroad.

"We're not trying to internationalise the house and do away with the ensemble. We bring in the people we need to do special projects," says Sjöblom. On the other hand, Danish Opera undoubtedly does have an eye to its international reputation, a reputation that is likely to be consolidated next month with the first *Forza del destino* for 60 years and, in the autumn, a *Meistersinger* that boasts only one guest artist ("a glorious example of what we can do with our ensemble," enthuses Padmore).

Sjöblom also has special responsibility for the Opera's orchestra — the Royal Danish Orchestra (Det Kongelige Kapel), founded in 1448 and boasting the longest history of any orchestra in Europe — which devotes four weeks of its annual season to concerts. But the leading ensemble in the country is the Danish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, which undertakes major tours and recording projects (currently with Decca, Chandos and dacapo).

This year Copenhagen is Cultural Capital of Europe (K96 is the shorthand) and everybody is pulling out the stops. Per Erik Weng, managing director of the Danish National RSO, sees it as two-way traffic: "We have tried to combine Europe coming to Copenhagen and Copenhagen to Europe."

Thus visitors to Copenhagen can experience a six-concert Stockhausen festival (September/October, including the latest instalment of the great man's operatic extravaganza, *Freitag*), or performances of Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder* in November (under Janowski), or Mahler's "Resurrection" Symphony in December (under Sinopoli), or a semi-staged version of Berg's *Lulu* in the Royal Riding School at Christianborg Palace (August/September). But the orchestra will also be taking part in the Great Orchestras of the World series at the Barbican in the autumn, and it will be travelling with its concert performance of Denmark's national opera, Nielsen's *Maskarade*, from Copenhagen to Vienna and Brussels.

This performance of *Maskarade*, and the subsequent recording for Decca, will use the new scholarly edition which has been one of the most urgent undertakings of the Carl Nielsen Edition, a project launched in August 1994 with generous backing from the Ministry of Culture (a partnership inconceivable in Britain). Astonishingly, there is currently no published score of *Maskarade* at all: conductors hitherto have had to work from photocopies of the manuscript score.

> ‘There aren't enough seats for the clamouring opera patrons’

The project (to be published by Hansen) will also provide for vocal scores and instrumental parts, and according to Niels Martin Jensen, the editor-in-chief, they "are striving very hard to combine the practical with the scholarly" — not, surprisingly, a priority of other complete editions one could name. New technology will also be harnessed, CD-Rom being used to show manuscript variants and so on.

An organisation crucial to K96 — and another to put its British counterpart to shame — is the Danish Music Information Centre. Funded by the Government, MIC, as it is affectionately known, operates from well-equipped premises, with a staff of a dozen or more. It offers the facility to inspect scores (Simon Rattle spent a morning there some time ago), to hear the music, and to research all aspects of Danish musical life.

Thanks in large part to a generous system of subsidy for new commissions — some senior composers are even paid a salary by the state — contemporary music is flourishing in Denmark. This month has seen the Third Composers' Biennale of the Danish Composers' Society, featuring more than 80 works by Danish and Nordic composers in a series of 23 concerts given by immensely talented native ensembles and soloists.

The healthy musical climate owes a good deal to the Music Act, passed by the Danish Parliament in 1990. The Act made provision for subsidising, among other things, musical tuition, with the result that there are now some 230 music schools in the country. The irony that musical education is being dismantled as fast in Britain as it is being nurtured in Denmark is almost too cruel to contemplate.

One further aspect of the Danes' enlightened thinking concerns recording. There are three major companies — dacapo, Kontrapunkt and Danacord — and a variety of smaller ones. Dacapo receives a subsidy from the Government which enables it — indeed obliges it — to create an anthology of Danish music, however uncommercial.

The results include the recent releases of Friedrich Kunzen's delightful Early Romantic opera *Holger Danske*, a forthcoming series of Late Romantic works by Louis Glass, Otto Malling, C.F.E. Horneman and the like, and a further series of Danish operettas and musicals.

Even without K96, Danish musical culture is one of the most thriving and upwardly mobile in Europe today. By the time it is all over, there will be no excuse for anyone who still thinks of the Danish capital exclusively in terms of the Little Mermaid statue and the Tivoli amusement park.

CONCERT

Tribute to fine cellist

THREE admired classics of the chamber-music repertory were played by the Brindisi Quartet as a belated 80th birthday tribute to the cellist William Pleeth, long esteemed as a soloist and ensemble player as well as teacher. The late Jacqueline du Pré was one of his pupils, and her memorial research fund for multiple sclerosis benefited from the concert proceeds.

Pleeth, who was present among three generations of his family, also taught his son Anthony, and he on this occasion took his father's former part as the distinctive second cello needed for Schubert's great C Major Quintet (D956), which many rank as the finest of its kind. Here we were treated to playing of assertiveness at the outset,

Brindisi Quartet
Wigmore Hall

every stroke of the bows giving full value to the music's voluble subject-matter.

In the sublime Adagio movement, the dialogue between Jacqueline Shave's first violin and Anthony Pleeth's second cello was well developed, while the inward feeling generated by all the players had a stealthy beauty to which the passionately dramatic central section was an exciting contrast. Spiritual calm was restored in the gentle rise and fall of a haunting, palpitating melody.

Trevor Pinnock joined three Brindisi players as the pianist for Mozart's G Minor Piano Quartet (K478). His crisp and buoyant keyboard technique is better suited to the older fortepiano or harpsichord than the modern grand, which here tended to over-dominate the strings in a performance best enjoyed for the players' skill in the building and release of tension.

Their vigorous interplay of sociable musical dialogue, tempered by fluid phrasing and a notably poised elegance in slow music, was also to be enjoyed in the unusual innovations of Haydn's C Major Quartet (Op 54, No 2). Here the first violin's high-lying passages in the opening movement, and the player's impassioned decoration of the following movement's theme, were but the most obvious elements in a distinctive performance.

NOEL GOODWIN

You're never too young for the 60's

Penguin's bite-sized repackaging of literature great and small is becoming child's play. **Nicolette Jones** reports

Lewis Carroll is among the authors whose priceless prose will be on sale at 60p

When Penguin celebrated its 60th birthday with 60 little books for 60p, it was meant to be a one-off commemorative gesture. But that was before the public turned out to have such an appetite for nibbles of Nietzsche and tastes of Tacitus. Before long the bestseller lists were clogged up with titles that rival publishers bitterly dismissed as "pamphlets". Then Phoenix House retaliated in kind, and we are about to hear the patter of tiny metrical feet from Faber's 60p poetry list.

Penguin, too, knew better than to leave things at that. They have produced further sets of 60's in the genres of cookery, biography, travel and classics, and now, inevitably, since smallness of price and format suggest it, children's books. The first 30 children's 60's are published today, this being the week of International Children's Day and Hans Christian Andersen's 191st birthday. You can celebrate both in style by buying the boxed set for £20.

Like the 60's themselves, the children's 60's are not entirely a new idea. Dover Thrift Editions and Wordsworth Editions preceded 60's with something very similar for less than £1. Collectable, pocket money-priced children's paperbacks have also, not unexpectedly, tempted the pennies out of hot little hands before — in everything from small Ladybird hardbacks to Banana Books, illustrated stories for six to nine-year-olds, by the best of contemporary writers.

The new Penguin set is distinct because it admits to being aimed at adults. "These are books about which adults would think: 'We'd like the children to have these and I would like to read it myself'," says Philippa Milne-Smith, Penguin's children's books publisher.

This means that the authors who have been chosen are mostly ones that adults would recognise, although the selection, aimed at children aged eight and over (principally because they're not illustrated), sets out to have a broad spectrum, a historical span, a variety of genres and an international mix. So Andersen's *Little Mermaid* is there, alongside Greek myths from Roger Lancelyn Green, episodes from Kipling, Lewis Carroll, Mark Twain and Conan Doyle, foreign classics such as *The Moomintrolls*, *Mrs Pepperpot* and *Pippi Longstocking*, poetry from Michael Rosen, a snatch of Roald Dahl's autobiography, and a smattering of contemporary writers: Anne Fine, Philip Ridley, Paul Jennings, Jon Scieszka. It does not claim to be canonical. Like the adult 60's, where Dick Francis rode alongside Marcus Aurelius, it's a something-for-everyone smorgasbord.

What it may not do, unlike its adult counterpart, is change reading habits: none of these authors would be a surprise entry to the bestseller lists. And are these snippets for a generation with a short attention span? Milne-Smith says no. "Many kids' paperbacks are 10,000 to 12,000 words," she says. "What is sad is that when Allen Lane first published Penguins, sixpence bought the whole thing. In the 1960s, full-length Puffin Books emphasised affordability. Now our bargains are really only tasters."

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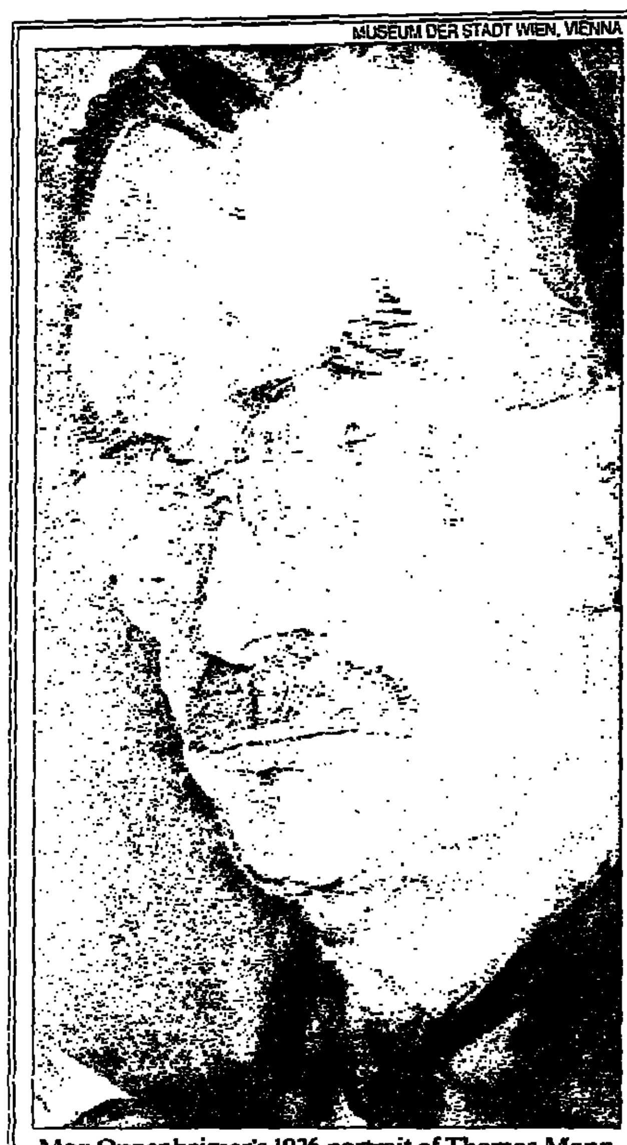


Max Oppenheimer's 1926 portrait of Thomas Mann

A Mann for all seasons

Daniel Johnson on three diverse portraits of a writer who attempted to shape his life as he had shaped his art

Thomas Mann was "the last great European man of letters". These three biographies are an acknowledgement of the magnitude of Mann's achievement; yet his work has never been very popular in this country.

This is not just because it was translated, for the most part execrably, by Mrs Lowe-Porter, one of the many importunate American ladies in his orbit. Even those of his British contemporaries who were sympathetic to German culture remained curiously indifferent to Mann: D. H. Lawrence dismissed him as a repressed, cold-blooded naturalist; most other English writers ignored him. His daughter Erika had a marriage of convenience with W. H. Auden, but they had nothing in common except a homosexuality they never discussed.

Except during the Battle of Britain, Mann harboured typical German prejudices against the English: they were a nation of shopkeepers, England was a land without music. (Towards other nations he was less indifferent: France and Italy he equated with Latin civilisation, decadent but fertile, and Russia with Slavonic sensuality; America, where he lived in exile for 13 years, aroused his admiration and, during the McCarthyite period, a somewhat exaggerated alarm.)

He loved Shakespeare, but ignored modern English literature. On a rare visit to Britain in 1924, Mann enjoyed Galsworthy's hospitality. One might have expected the author of *Buddenbrooks* to have esteemed the author of *The Forsyte Saga*; but Hayman says Mann thought his host not quite a gentleman. Worse, Galsworthy was insufficiently "spiritual". This vignette hints at why Mann has never achieved cult status here: he was an intellectual among novelists, a particularly Teutonic aesthete, and rather a snob besides.

So do any of these biographies help English readers to enter Mann's gloriously imaginative literary world? Donald Prater's *A Life* is finely nuanced, fair-minded and well-researched, from which his subject emerges with considerable credit. Prater is good on the monumental public persona that Mann created for himself, the way in which he consciously modelled himself on Goethe by leading a "representative" life which was itself a work of art.

Throughout his elegantly written account, Prater evokes the irony which renders Mann's greatest novels — *Buddenbrooks*, *The Magic Mountain* and *Doctor Faustus* — the apotheosis and the damnation of the old bourgeois Europe he loved. Prater portrays an Olympian magnanimity, with which Mann himself might well have been satisfied.

THOMAS MANN
A Life
By Donald Prater
OUP, £25

THOMAS MANN
By Ronald Hayman
Bloomsbury, £25

THOMAS MANN
Eros and Literature
By Anthony Heilbut
Picador, £25

Ronald Hayman's more informal biography would not have pleased him at all. It is an indictment of the Mann family, and especially Thomas's treatment of his six children, all of whom Hayman thinks were damaged by their father. The three most talented — Erika, Klaus and Golo — grew up to be homosexual; Klaus and Michael both died by their own hands.

In the case of Klaus, Thomas's conduct barely stopped short of child abuse: he was unable to disguise his unhealthy interest in his son's adolescent beauty. The incestuous longings of his elder brother Heinrich are partly blamed for the suicide of their sister Carla. Their other sister Julia also killed herself. Only his wife, Katia, and his daughter, Elisabeth, seem to have survived unscathed.

It was an accursed clan, and Thomas's cool reactions to the many catastrophes were typical of the egotist he undoubtedly was. Yet the early demise of his own father, which precipitated him into a literary rather than a mercantile career and provided him with the climax of *Buddenbrooks*, established an enduring pattern of transfiguring pain into prose. Death, disease and disorder were all grist to the slowly grinding mill. This is a gossipy warts-and-all biography, but even so its subject remains endearing.

Anthony Heilbut's forthcoming book is, as its subtitle suggests, a biographical study of Mann's works in the light of his sexuality. It is strident in tone, unsubtle in content, uncritical in analysis of Mann's evasions, moral and political. But it has some value as an *apologia for* Mann's "half-open closet" mentality, at a time when homosexual campaigners are aggressively denying the legitimacy of such a stance. Heilbut speaks for those who would enlist Mann to their cause, rather than those who would abjure him.

Both Hayman and Heilbut have relied more heavily than Prater on the principal source that has come to light since Mann's death: his voluminous, though fragmentary, diaries. Most of the diaries fell into Nazi hands — causing Mann great anxiety — but they then disappeared from sight until after the war. Their confessional content is less shocking to our eyes than to his — his homosexuality was of a cerebral, Platonic kind — but they leave no doubt about the strength of his passions even in old age.

Is it right, though, to pay more attention to the author of the diaries than to the author of the novels and stories? Mann had a very eventful life, but most of it was spent at his desk. By his death he had become the most famous living German. Had he not been such a slave to the North German Protestant work ethic, had he not produced those infinitely complex sentences, comprising a vast corpus which remains the most extended of all meditations on the culture of the West, Thomas Mann would now share the oblivion into which his brother Heinrich's works have fallen. For his psychology, one should read Hayman; for his sexuality, Heilbut; but to understand what he accomplished, read Prater.

Symbol of life, not of blame

Peter Stothard

UNDERSTANDING GREEK SCULPTURE
By Nigel Spivey
Thames and Hudson, £28

In the Ashmolean Museum collection there is a Greek vase known as the "Pandora Pot" which depicts a hammer-holding man and a woman with outstretched arms. The woman is clearly labelled as Pandora, the character best known for her box in which all the evils of the world were once held. The man bears the name Epimetheus, the less famous mythical figure whose ill-advised marriage to Pandora unlocked the box, released the evils and guaranteed that mankind would never again have a wholly happy day.

To a small group of not-too-hardworking students in the Oxford of 1970 the interpretation of this scene was no great challenge. Pandora was obviously raising her hands in supplicant apology for spoiling everybody else's lives; Epimetheus was wondering whether or not to smash her round the head with his hammer. I recall a lively discussion in which one of the many proto-feminists of that time spoke about proto-wifebeating and about the pernicious mythology, stretching from Adam and Eve to the Iroquois Indians, in which women were blamed for everything.

It is hard to review a book called *Understanding Greek Sculpture* without recalling this and all the other many misunderstandings that litter our pasts. Nigel Spivey, curator of the Cambridge University Museum, can be congratulated for bringing the latest scholarship lightly to bear here on a wonderful range of aesthetic and archaeological issues, including the Greeks' first woman who has so long confused the most learned of scholars as well as the least.

Pandora formed part of what was arguably the greatest of all Athenian sculptures, Pheidias's Athena Parthenos, which stood in famous splendour on the 5th-century Acropolis. The troublesome question is why her story should be told on a statue designed to demonstrate the virtue, glory and moral power of the goddess Athena's city.

Various answers are available. The first, to which Spivey is most attracted, is that the sculptor chose Pandora for his own promotional purposes. According to myth, the designer-deity, Hephaistos, had made the first woman himself and ensured that her dangerous nature was cloaked in the most artful beauty at his command. For Pheidias "to liken his own work to that of Hephaistos might have been an irresistible temptation".

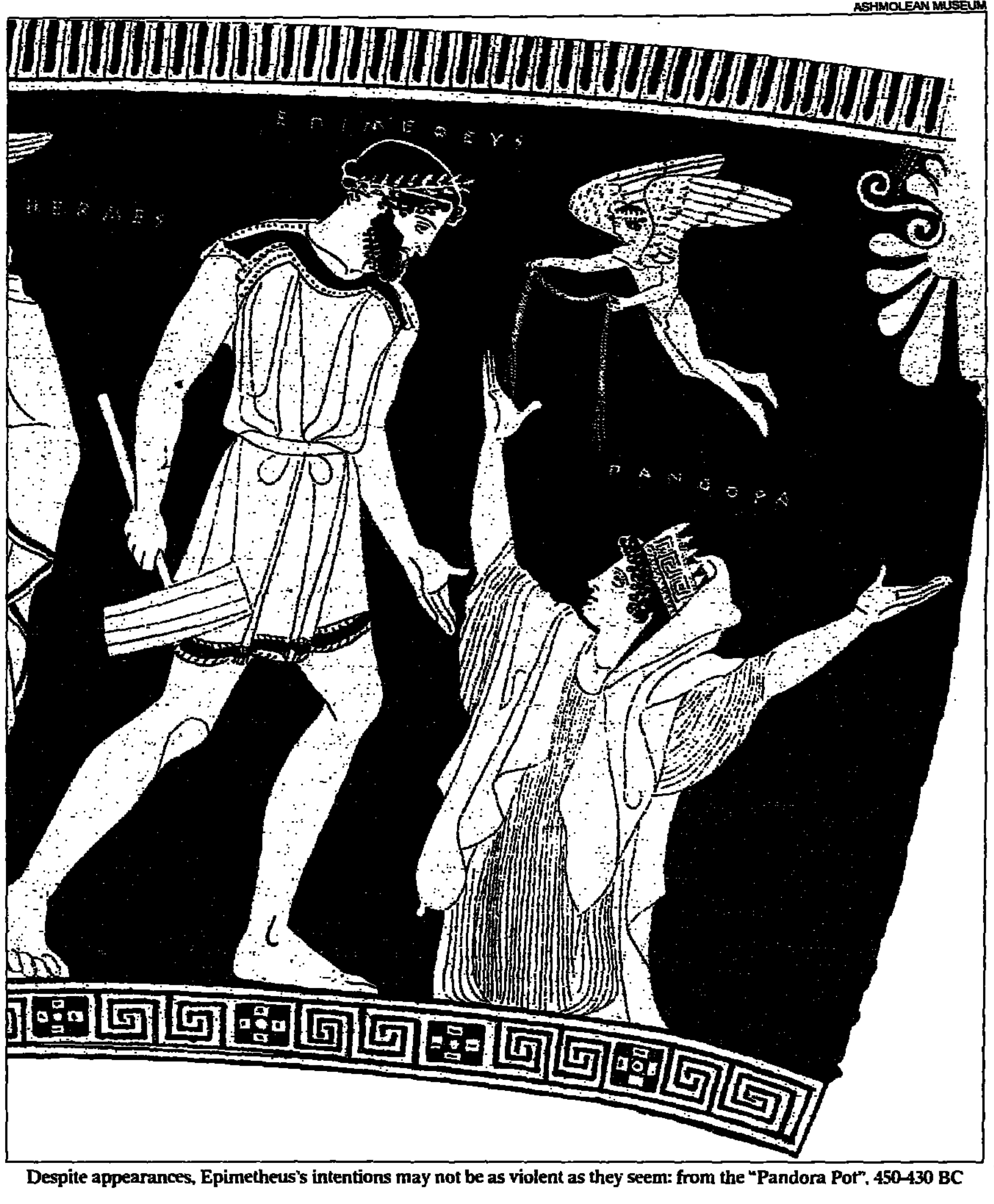
The second is that the city fathers of Athens did not much care which myths decorated their statues. That seems unlikely. The main purpose of the Acropolis was imperial preening. For this single piece Pheidias was given more than a thousand kilogrammes of gold, worth around £9 million at today's prices, every gram of it gouged from the city's new subject empire and displayed to keep that empire in place.

Spivey provides a provocative introduction to the issue of how much freedom Athenian sculptors could exercise in comparison with their Hellenistic and Renaissance successors. We can reasonably doubt whether any government, committing so much of its gold reserves in this way, would leave the motifs of the work to artistic caprice.

A third answer, one frequently available to scholars of classical sculpture, is that the problem does not properly exist; that the Pandora story is not represented on the Parthenos at all. The statue itself certainly no longer exists. Even most stone figures of ancient Greece are known now only from later copies: a massive work of gold and ivory had no chance of survival. Although the travel-writer, Pausanias, reporting in the 2nd century AD, says that the Pandora myth was shown on the Parthenos, all surviving copies are obscure.

The fourth answer, to which Spivey refers only briefly, is that Pheidias and his fellow Athenians saw Pandora in a wholly different way; indeed, that they may have reacted to the allegation that a woman brought all evil to mankind in a similar manner to that of my proto-feminist friends in the Ashmolean.

ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM



Despite appearances, Epimetheus's intentions may not be as violent as they seem: from the "Pandora Pot", 450-430 BC

The standard Pandora myth is found first in the works of the poet, Hesiod, in around 700 BC. It is Hesiod, possibly following the same prehistoric storyline that gave us the Garden of Eden, who made woman into a species of treacherous creatures whose job was to bring vengeance to mankind for taking stolen fire from Olympus.

Two hundred years later, however, that may not have been the only Pandora legend at Athens, or not its most important part. By then the defining element of the Greeks' first woman was that she received an individual attribute at her creation from each god and goddess: her very name in Greek meant the recipient of all gifts.

The cult of the unmarried maiden, bearing the benefits of life and earth, was central to Athenians at their civilised height. Their forefathers used to celebrate the annual return of spring by hammering on the frozen ground to release the earth spirits. Sometimes the spirits came from earthenware pots: such is the most likely meaning of the "Pandora Pot" and probably too of the Parthenos decoration.

There was a woman-hating tradition but it was neither dominant nor the only one. Sophocles, representing a softer culture than Hesiod, wrote a play called *Pandora, or, The Hammerers*. The husband's hammer which so alarmed a few ill-informed students in Oxford 25 years ago was not as threatening as we thought.

Understanding Greek sculpture is not essential to modern life. But it is essential to understanding how art relates to the rest of what exists in the world. This truth, at least, is widely agreed. If anyone wants today to see the "Pandora Pot", it is currently on tour in Dallas, Texas. The best full-size reproduction of the Parthenos is in Nashville, Tennessee; there is a smaller one in Toronto.

The author is The Editor of The Times

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Unchanging archaeology of terror

Lesley Chamberlain

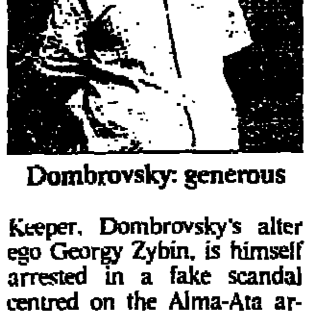
THE FACULTY OF USELESS KNOWLEDGE
By Yury Dombrovsky
Harvill, £15.99

MOST modern Russian novelists have been Socialist Realists, and hence Soviet writers, even when expressing an anti-Soviet message.

Solzhenitsyn exemplifies the rule from which Yury Dombrovsky (1909-1978), together with Pasternak and Bulgakov, is a rare exception. Dombrovsky is one of the clutch of repressed writers whose work has only recently become widely known in Russia. Exile for many years to the Kazakh capital Alma-Ata, almost on the Chinese border, long experience teaching foreign literature and a deep interest in archaeology, as well as painful years in prison camps, informed Dombrovsky's broad humanity.

The writing, which takes up all these themes, is leisurely, colloquial, generous and amusing. Here translated by Alan Myers, it is undramatic and, unlike Solzhenitsyn, almost shy to confront violence and suffering head-on. Its strength is to give us, as it were, the soap-opera background to the Stalinist evil.

The Faculty of Useless Knowledge's predecessor from 1966, *The Keeper of Antiquities*, was justly acclaimed a masterpiece when it first appeared in English a few years ago. It skilfully combines social comedy with glimpses of the Stalinist horror. *The Faculty of Useless Knowledge* carries on the story when the Keeper, Dombrovsky's alter ego Georgy Zybin, is himself arrested in a fake scandal centred on the Alma-Ata archaeology museum.



Dombrovsky: generous

Dombrovsky's fifth and last work, it was finished in 1975 and is the lesser novel, though its moral scope is vast. It is a necessary companion to *The Keeper*, showing us who could resist the collective insanity of believing enemies of the people round every corner and who could not.

Claude Lanzmann's 1985 film *Shoah* took more than nine hours to convey the ordinary circumstances from which the Holocaust arose; Dombrovsky's 200,000 words do a similar job for the Terror, and command one equally to attend even as the narrative digresses into yet another auxiliary tale.

The familiar details of ordinary lives stand out: what the fashionable are wearing and how the girls are filing their nails while their neighbours are being tortured. The Terror coincided with the golden years of Hollywood. The Alma-Ata purge comes about because the envious brother of a Moscow prosecutor decides to stage a rival set of show trials. In Alma-Ata they talk of Gloria Swanson though not of him; nor of "them", who are daily edited out of the picture.

Zybin grins, cavils, hits back. In a running demonstration of what is that faculty of useless knowledge by which we should most certainly live. Zybin loves animals, nature, people, beautiful objects, books and a history which he strives to feel in his own bones. The metaphor of archaeology is perfect for non-Sovietism. After digging for Roman remains in the East, the Keeper recuperates by gazing out over the Hellenistic Black Sea. Marxist-Leninism is a mere ripple in time. Life goes on.

It certainly does. I heard someone well-informed say recently that the Soviet regime was not as bad as all that. Revisionism will try its luck with the Terror, just as it has with the Holocaust: another reason to keep reading.

Getting wise to Emma

Tania Glyde

FIRST TIME
By Lara Harte
Phoenix House, £14.99

If you ask me, the middle-class upbringing is just about the biggest curse a parent can put on a child after actual abuse. Before you scream, remember that growing up isn't about being overprotected, passing tests and cultivating the right sort of people, it's about learning to deal with the real world, and not arriving at adulthood convinced you're better than 90 per cent of the population.

The 19-year-old author of *First Time* explores this issue, with great effect and simplicity, in one of its most potent arenas: among 14-year-old girls at a "good" Dublin school. The aptly named Cassandra's parents are well-off and she's a bit of a loner, always has been. Along comes new girl Emma, from a poorer suburb. Dark, ratty-haired Emma has everything blonde Cassandra would like to have: cool clothes, experience of drink, cigarettes, spliff and boys, and a laisser-faire attitude to homework. She's streetwise, in other words. Cassandra introduces Emma to the rebels of the class, one of whom later tells Emma how important it is to have lots of tests so you can brush up your weakest subjects. The meaning of "cred" fast makes itself known to Cassandra's amazement and the two of them become *best friends*.

And so Cassandra meets Emma's mates, has her first drink, her first, vile, kiss with dogbreath Kevin, and so on. Reading this, I'd almost forgotten just how wearingly trite the minutiae of female communication can be. The particular brand of eyeliner; the particular angle of a turned back in relation to level of scorn displayed; the choke-chain of paranoia when exposed to *the boys* that controls us from our first period and before. But this author knows how important that is when you're 14. At that age, our sensitivity to the nuances of self-image should turn every woman into a poet. (But somehow it doesn't).

So you just know, when Cassandra lends the larger, better-developed Emma her favourite waistcoat for the *Ashford Disco*, that it'll come back stretched, and ruined. *And, subtly*, creepingly, it's downhill all the way after that. Cassandra desperately wants to see the best in Emma's every move but she just doesn't have the equipment to deal with her increasingly outrageous machinations.

Without any slur on the author, the outcome is fairly predictable, but this good first novel has suspense for all that. As for style, the gentle slang gives it colour but, next time, the author needs to dare more, to expand from the merely literal.

Of course, in the way of English journalists, I must add that I'm not being anti-intellectual about education. Knowledge and learning are always good. It's just that you shouldn't wrap them in tissue paper. Without giving it all away, the moral is: *get wise*.

هكذا من الاجل

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Happier times: Boris Yeltsin, Mikhail Gorbachev and Nikolai Ryzhkov at the celebration, in 1990, of the 73rd anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution

The machinery of creative thought

Andrei Navrozov

THE GORBACHEV FACTOR
By Archie Brown
OUP, £19.99

Archie Brown, whose portrait of Mikhail Gorbachev goes well beyond ordinary political hagiography, is shrewd in one respect. He realises that the popular perception of Gorbachev, both in Russia and in the West, as a spent force of which many have only a dim recollection, has nothing to do with the actual career prospects of the man who, using pseudo-democratic instruments of power developed by the KGB, has already given us Soviet totalitarianism with a capitalist face.

The apologist's timing is impeccable. Met with derision when it was first announced, Gorbachev's entry into the presidential race has now been backed, despite the lack of an established party organisation, by 1.7 million expertly collected signatures. Whether he wins or not is beside the point, and Professor Brown is all too well aware of this. "There were quizzical looks in my audience at Yale University", he recalls, when on October 22, 1980, he announced that "an event of extraordinary potential significance took place in Moscow yesterday — the promotion to full membership of the Politburo of Mikhail Sergeevich Gorbachev."

He held this opinion, he states, "long before it became fashionable" and continued to hold it "after it had ceased to be fashionable, at any rate in Russia". It is an opinion this reviewer shares: like George Bush's mastery of the smoke-filled room, Gorbachev's influence is not based on electoral approval, past or future. Quite the reverse. The coming election is a test of whether real power can translate into votes.

One question about the post-Soviet patrician dodged in this book is to do with his past. Yet the answer is simple: the KGB was the *Mayflower* which brought Gorbachev out of provincial obscurity and onto the world stage. Another question is more complex and is to do with Gorbachev's methodology of exploiting the "Soviet collapse", which he helped to engineer, to become the future master of Europe, stepping toward dictatorship through the 1920s-type disarray of civil war, profiteer capitalism and parliamentary impotence. He would not be the first tyrant supported by a shadowy clique — think of Stalin's *apparat* — to deploy such a stratagem.

Georgi Arbatov, appointed by the KGB in 1967 to head the Institute of the United States and Canada, where, in Professor Brown's happy phrase, "he took a genuinely pro-detente line", is cited here about a conversation he had with Yuri Andropov in 1977. Gorbachev, said the KGB chairman, is one of "the completely new people with whom it is really possible to link our hopes for the future". These words, almost identical to Margaret Thatcher's a decade later, are where Gorbachev's ascent began.

With the death on July 17, 1978 of Fedor Kulakov, which Professor Brown, in another of his happy locutions, describes as "relatively sudden" (adding, in a misleading footnote, that the "somewhat tautological" *Pravda* report at the time "had given rise to the speculation among Muscovites that his death was by suicide"), Gorbachev, a mere regional party secretary, moved to Moscow, taking the Brezhnevite's job in the Politburo.

On October 21, 1980, the day before Professor Brown's lecture at Yale, Pyotr Masherov, party secretary for the Belorussian Republic and candidate member of the Politburo since 1966, was to be promoted to full membership. But as a few days earlier Masherov had "tragically perished", according to *Pravda*, "in a car accident", it was Gorbachev who got the promotion instead of the Brezhnevite. Masherov's name is not in Professor Brown's book.

But Andropov's patronage meant more than "wet jobs" well done. In addition to Arbatov's famous think-tank, during his 15-year tenure as KGB chairman Andropov sponsored a vast network of "closed institutes" and "special organisations", many affiliated with the Academy of Sciences, to harness what Arbatov here calls "creative thought" and to lay the foundations of the less recognisably totalitarian and economically diversified regime he envisioned. Of another such "institute", Professor Brown says that it was "a refuge for a number of independent thinkers who were to become very prominent proponents of transformative change in the Gorbachev era".

On December 24, 1983, from his sickbed, Andropov dictated to his aide Arkady Volsky (who today heads one of the most powerful "special organisations", the Business and Industry Union of Russia) his bequest of the Politburo leadership to Gorbachev.

Two years later, after the KGB-organised purge of the old guard had been completed and Gorbachev's "transformative change" was unveiled, it was the new chairman of the KGB, Viktor Chebrikov, who first used the words "glasnost" and "perestroika" in addressing the rank and file.

That this "new party line" was directed against the Communist Party and brought about its effective dissolution is a small paradox by the standards of Soviet history. Yet Europe's future may depend on the West's ability to recognise that the new Andropov elite rules the old Soviet Union, and that Gorbachev is their man.

A. S. Byatt on the unique voice of Doris Lessing

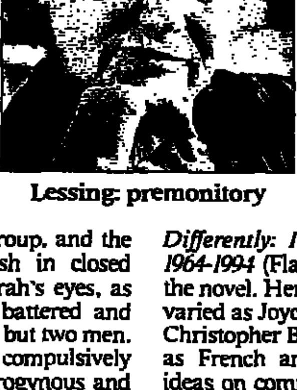
Passionate tale of the unexpected

LOVE, AGAIN
By Doris Lessing
Flamingo, £15.99

DORIS LESSING'S characters are always in the grip of something — ideology, the zeitgeist, group dynamics, biochemistry. In *Love, Again* (a wonderful title) they are gripped by the most primeval and maddening force, erotic love, appearing unexpectedly, again. Again, and unwelcome in the case of Sarah Durham, who is 60 and had expected to live the rest of her life as a cool observer.

Sarah is a theatrical producer, part of a comfortable group in a fringe theatre, who put on a play based on the life and works of a 19th-century Frenchwoman, Julie Vairon. Julie was both independent — a beautiful girl from Martinique, gifted as a painter and musician, author of copious and moving diaries — and a victim, abandoned by two lovers, possibly the murderer of her child, who killed herself when marriage offered her stability and respectability.

She is an archetype of 19th-century heroinism, and more widely a spirit of romantic love, her name recalling both Rousseau's Julie and Shakespeare's Juliet. Her diaries are passionate and analytical, her music is romantic but also austere, drawing on the ancient formal romance of troubadour lyrics. She is, intentionally I believe, the most real person in the novel. One character, Stephen, co-author of the play, is in love with her; all are affected by her.


Lessing: premonitory

The study of the putting on of the play is, like much of Lessing's best work, the study of the interaction of a group, and the kind of passions that flourish in closed worlds. It is seen through Sarah's eyes, as she falls in love, astounded, battered and always analytical, with not one but two men.

First is the beautiful and compulsively seductive Bill, young and androgynous and brash. Then there is the more shadowy Henry, the director, a responsible married man, who reciprocates her violent passionate feelings. Other actors and actresses are also involved in brief wildness and fierce grief. Another young actor develops a passion for Sarah to which in her besotted state she pays scant attention: when one is in love the beloved sheds rays of light everywhere; the unreciprocated lover is shadowy. It is as though some magic mushroom had shed spores on the assembled company.

The interesting thing about such violent sexual passion is its abstraction, which Lessing's heroines are intelligent enough to observe even while they are tormented in body and mind. Once aroused, the obsession is transferable. It is love that takes a grip on Sarah, not crude Bill or delicate Henry.

This novel is not a midsummer night's dream, nor yet a comedy of errors. It is harshly written, its characters drawn in broad brushstrokes, just recognisable rather than being delicate or sympathetic individuals — the central actor is love itself. Painful things are held up to be looked at — the different fates of ageing men besotted with young female flesh, who may be rejuvenated and comforted, and the dryness and pain of older women, who are less lucky.

Sarah's friendship with Stephen risks ruin from the greater force of sexual passion in both of them. Stephen mistakenly supposes himself the object of Sarah's awakened erotic attention; Sarah watches helplessly as he seeks for the dead woman in her living imitators, the actresses.

On the periphery of this madness is Sarah's brother, a complacent doctor, his exhausted wife, his two silly healthy daughters and his aimless and inadequate daughter, who is slipping into drugs and prostitution. If the play has a wild destructive life, the family has a dead destructive chill. But Sarah comes to see that her brother was her first and most absolute love, from which all others take their form.

Doris Lessing's recent autobiography also balanced a wise reflective voice with a sense that she herself, and all of us, are driven by forces we have little or no control over. These forces, both in this novel and in the autobiography, are symbolised by music, rhythms that set people tapping and humming and moving together, rather than thinking coolly.

Doris Lessing's own unique voice, half intuitive prophet, half amused analyst of human folly, comes out variously and splendidly in *Putting the Question Differently: Interviews with Doris Lessing 1964-1994* (Flamingo, £7.99), published with the novel. Here she discusses with writers as varied as Joyce Carol Oates, Claire Tomalin, Christopher Bigsby and Brian Aldiss, as well as French and German interviewers, her ideas on communism and feminism, Africa and England, the profession of writing, and the difference between writers and academics, prophets, or philosophers.

SHE HAS, as some of the interviewers point out, an uncanny knack of writing premonitory novels about what the world will shortly come to be obsessed with — free women, the old, the terrorist. She has kept her eye on women's lives, from young girls drowsed with sex to old women invisible to everyone except those who fear becoming old women themselves. She has hoaxed the literary establishment with anonymous novels and been surprised when that establishment reacted with embarrassed irritation.

Her mixture of passionate involvement and the capacity to stand back and take a long look at what was going on, or will go on, is unlike that of any novelist writing now, except perhaps Saul Bellow, and the late Anthony Burgess. *Love, Again* grips, maddens, depresses and excites the reader from the first page to the last. And the interviews give guarded glimpses into the making of the novels and their world.

Just when was the word?

Henry Chadwick

THE JESUS PAPYRUS
By Carsten Peter Thiede and Matthew D'Ancona
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £16.99

THIS BOOK offers a run round a shop where shelves are stocked with delicate bone china. It will provoke discussion; the authors hope for a furore. Mixing journalism and intricate technicality, they reassert their opinion that surviving scraps of an ancient copy of St Matthew's Gospel, split between Barcelona and Magdalen College, Oxford, should be dated about AD 50. The handwriting led the great expert on papyri, Colin Roberts, to assign it to the 2nd century. Argument for knocking 100 years off that hangs on comparison between the Magdalen papyrus and other papyri. But dating by handwriting leaves a margin of, say, 50 years.

If, however, Thiede's dating works, it puts back the date of the Gospel, and since Matthew probably had Mark's Gospel before him, that must be even earlier. So the hypothesis affirms that these two Gospels were composed in the forties of the 1st century.

On the side the book has an agenda — to attack those who doubt if the Gospels are as reliable about Jesus as about late-1st-century churches.

There are steps in the argument about the dating of the Magdalen papyrus that arouse qualms. Thiede attaches great weight to the identification by a learned Spaniard of a scrap of Greek papyrus found in Qumran, Cave 7, commonly abbreviated 7Q5, found in 1955. The few surviving letters are compatible with being Mark 6: 52-53 provided one can explain the absence of three words attested in other lines of transmission but impossible to fit into the available space.

If the identification is correct, however, it would point to the conclusion that Mark's Gospel antedates the destruction of the Qumran buildings in AD 68, provided this site was not reoccupied after 68, eg, at the time of the Jewish revolt of Bar Cochba under Hadrian 67 years later.

That Mark's Gospel is not very late is a reasonable deduction from his passing reference (15:21) to Simon of Cyrene's sons, Alexander and Rufus, of whom Mark's community was evidently expected to know something. The reference to the "abomination of desolation" (13:14) points at least to a date after the emperor Caligula's proposal to compel the Jews to honour him by admitting to the Temple a vast statue of himself as a new manifestation of Zeus.

The fall of Jerusalem in AD 70 is probably not important in the dating problem. But if Peter and Paul died as martyrs during Nero's persecution at Rome in 64, someone in the community was likely to think it was time to write down the memories of what the Apostles used to say with the intention of underlining the religious significance of the story, above all of the Passion narrative.

Thiede and d'Ancona are likely to be near the truth in wanting to date the first three Gospels about the middle decades of the 1st century. The arguments from the papyri are regrettably too precarious to allow for the ringing certainty with which undated scraps of papyrus are assigned to particular years or decades. Nevertheless, even if Magdalen's fragments are not sacred relics contemporary with the Gospel-makers, they are assuredly very ancient and to be revered.

MAGDALEN was given its treasure by Charles Huleatt, an evangelical missionary who was chaplain to British winter visitors at Luxor in the 1890s, died in the Messina earthquake of 1908, and is commemorated on a plaque at the Luxor hotel.

Qumran papyrus scroll fragment 7Q5: (Mark 6: 52-3)

Demanding a future for love

Rachel Cusk

DANGEROUS LOVE
By Ben Okri
Phoenix House, £15.99

READING Ben Okri can be like listening to someone describe their latest dream, rambling, florid, visionary, full of an opaque personal significance, and yet capable of distilling a sequence of images which can tell their own story. When reading *Dangerous Love*, other similarities — overlong, indulgent, occasionally unintelligible — suggest themselves, but this would be to discredit a novel whose essentials, if filleted away from its superfluities, are potent and intact.

Dangerous Love is a story of blighted youth, set during the 1970s in a deprived compound in a ghetto of Lagos. The compound is a mire of filth, poverty, despair, violence and superstition, in which are embedded two jewels: Omovo, a talented young painter, and Ifeyiwa, a beautiful girl from a distant village, imported against her will to marry a bullying slob named Takpo.

In such surroundings, it is inevitable not only that they will fall in love, but will believe that they are destined to do so, a course as unavoidable and apparently fruitless as their neighbours' misery. The danger of the title lies not so much in the possibility of the lovers' discovery, as in the optimism, the glimpse of something better, their feelings for each other engender.

Okri's portrait of the benighted ghetto ranges in tone from the wryly comic to a luridness of Gothic proportions; the former accounting for the resilient sociability of the human spirit, the latter expressing a fastidious horror at the atrocities of the human condition. Okri has a good eye for this local traffic, its stories, its slang, its inevitable comedians, bullies and grotesques. What is condemned is its lethargy, its abject acceptance of the cosmic insult of its circumstances.

The stage is set early on for a powerful disquisition of a country where the future has been cancelled and the forces of life driven to mutiny. That none of it quite coheres is the fault more of Okri's writing than his vision. His style is possessed of a false economy: it glances off its subject, never really finding a clean hit, so that more often than not he mauls the truth he is trying to apprehend by showering it with volleys of description.

That he succeeds nevertheless in smuggling images from his mind to the reader's suggests curiously that he is more sensitive to pictures than language. His landscape is memorable and his characters well-drawn; their motives and movements, their inner lives, less so.

Hemmed in by their author's outrage, they have little room to manoeuvre, for the emotional core of the novel has been hijacked by a more political sensibility. Some of Okri's more promising scenarios — Omovo's father's guilty second marriage, Takpo's ruminations on the ingratitude and inconstancy of women — are left behind by a momentum which seeks a *coup de théâtre* where an untidier conclusion would do.

Omovo is the main casualty of this tendency: his final "moment of illumination" is the frenzied, incoherent outburst of a man trapped in the wrong medium, at the end of which one is not really much the wiser, and Omovo himself can merely conclude that "everything has significance".

Dangerous Love has a good story, and a good story can speak for itself. Okri shouts, as if suspecting a certain deafness, whether his own or ours is unclear. Not everything, it might be added, has significance: if one is looking for human tragedy, that, perhaps, is where to find it.

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Why it pays to check in early

Hundreds of transatlantic airline passengers found themselves temporarily stranded at Heathrow last week as the number of "bumped" passengers reached record levels.

Airlines blamed a combination of early Easter holidaymakers and American tourists who had bought special offer tickets, the return portion of which had to be used before the end of March.

I suspect that many more travellers will be at risk from this most annoying of practices during this busy Easter weekend.

Why do airlines do it? The answer is simple and logical to the airline industry, but infuriating to those affected by it. Business travellers and their travel agents are most to blame. Often with casual disregard for the convenience of fellow passengers, they make bookings on up to five flights, knowing they can use only one. Because they are paying a full business class fare they believe that they are entitled to whatever flight they want. Others paying less, apparently, do not count.

The Travel Business

◆

HARVEY ELLIOTT

Over-keen travel agents block-book seats on flights which they expect to sell, and then forget to tell the airline that the booking has not materialised.

A full-price ticket has no restrictions and can be collected and paid for on departure, or a refund can be had if it is not issued. On average between 10 and 15 per cent of all tickets booked — mainly business class — are not used.

Airlines have, therefore, devised sophisticated programmes to predict what flights on which routes might have the most "no shows", then deliberately overbook them to avoid flying with empty seats.

The problem comes when the computer gets it wrong.

The European Union decided that this had happened so often that it issued a directive that if a passenger checks in on time — and that means at the desk and not at the back of the queue — and has a confirmed ticket, he or she must be carried or is entitled to compensation of about £270 for a journey of more than 3,500 miles, or half that amount for fewer miles.

Some airlines hold "auctions" at the gate offering ever-increasing amounts of cash, travel vouchers or other benefits to passengers not to take a particular flight. This means that most of those who are "bumped" are volunteers. But for those who really need to catch a particular a flight, how can the risk be minimised? Pay in advance, get the ticket in your hand, reconfirm if you are abroad and — above all — check in early.

Most airlines operate a priority scheme which ensures that any disabled passenger, those who have registered their special needs or special pleadings, members of frequent-flyer programmes, executive club members and anyone who knows how best to massage the system are given a seat. These are followed by those who have paid the full economy fare and then those who arrive early.

Should all this be necessary? Perhaps the time has come for IATA to refuse to grant a licence to those travel agents who persistently overbook. And perhaps business passengers who do not arrive for a flight could be charged an "inconvenience" fee.

It would be a brave airline which launched such a scheme — it could alienate its most lucrative class of traveller, the one prepared to pay through the nose for the right to be a nuisance if he or she wants to be. If the whole process was ended it would also take away from economy class passengers that thrilling, but all too rare, chance of being upgraded into the seat which had been booked by the truant business class passenger.

Letters, page 21

Theme parks are to charge by the inch

SEVERAL British theme parks will this Easter be admitting children on the basis of height rather than age in an attempt to end confusion over what age a child needs to be to qualify for cheaper entry prices, *David Churchill writes.*

Thorpe Park in Surrey, Camelot Theme Park in Chorley, Lancashire, and Drayton Manor Park near Tamworth, West Midlands, are among several theme parks which now charge according to how tall children are. "It is a fairer method because there are some rides on which children cannot go because of their size, so they should get in for less," said a spokeswoman for Thorpe Park.

Children visiting Thorpe Park, a favourite with the Princess of Wales and her children, are allowed in free if they are less than 0.9 metres high. For those between 0.9 metres and 1.4 metres, the price is £11.25 and those taller than this are charged £13.25. Children are measured on admission by the character Harley the Cat to determine how much they pay.

At Camelot, those under 1 metre in height are admitted free, while for all those over a metre the price is £12.99. Drayton Manor Park charges a small entry fee then admission to the rides of £6 for those under 1.2 metres, and £9 over this.

Not all theme park operators, however, believe that charging by height is fair. "We think it is rather discriminatory," says Chessington World of Adventures in Surrey, which charges children aged between four and 14 £13 for entry, with adult admission £16.50. But Chessington does operate some height restrictions on its biggest thrill rides for safety reasons. Riders on Rameses Revenge, for example, have to be at least 4ft 10in, but not taller than 6ft 10in. "Otherwise, the safety harness would not fit," says a spokeswoman.

What constitutes a child also varies from park to park. The new Legoland Park at Windsor charges child prices (£12) from three to 15, while at Alton Towers, the child price of £13 covers ages four to 13 inclusive.

At Oakwood Park at Narberth, Dyfed, which this summer is due to open Europe's biggest wooden rollercoaster at a cost of £1.8 million, child prices (£7.95) apply to those aged between *three and nine.*

Thorpe Park, which last week was voted Best United Kingdom Theme Park in the 1996 Parent Friendly Awards, organised by the Tommy's Campaign in London, has also launched a Plan Ahead ticket which it claims makes it cheaper than its rivals. For two adults and two children, the cost is £40, a saving of £9 on normal rates.

Boom in holiday villages

By Tony Dawe

WITH Center Parcs reporting that its three holiday villages in England are fully booked for Easter, rival companies are stepping up their efforts to tap the booming all-inclusive, all-action market.

Gran Dorado Parcs & Hotels is mounting a determined campaign to encourage British tourists to take the short ferry trip across the North Sea to visit its six parks in Holland and Germany and is planning three more centres which, it believes, will appeal strongly to the UK market.

Oasis Villages, part of the Rank Organisation, has started building work on its first project in the Lake District, and a second in Kent is in the planning stage.

The companies' choice of sites emphasises a growing belief in the tourist industry that visitors want to stay in holiday villages which boast outside attractions as well as all the leisure, sporting and restaurant facilities inside.

Mieke van Numen, of Center Parcs, says that though people taking weekend breaks seldom want to leave the villages, those staying for longer are keen to take day trips. The company's newest village in Britain is at Longleat, close to the Marquess of Bath's stately home, and Bath and Bristol. The company attracted 3.5 million visitors to its 14 parks in Europe last year, more than stay in many leading international hotel chains.

"Holiday villages are enjoying a boom but they will have to change to keep attracting visitors," says Jan van der Dussen, president of Gran Dorado. "Holidaymakers enjoy the setting and the facilities but they want to find something interesting outside."

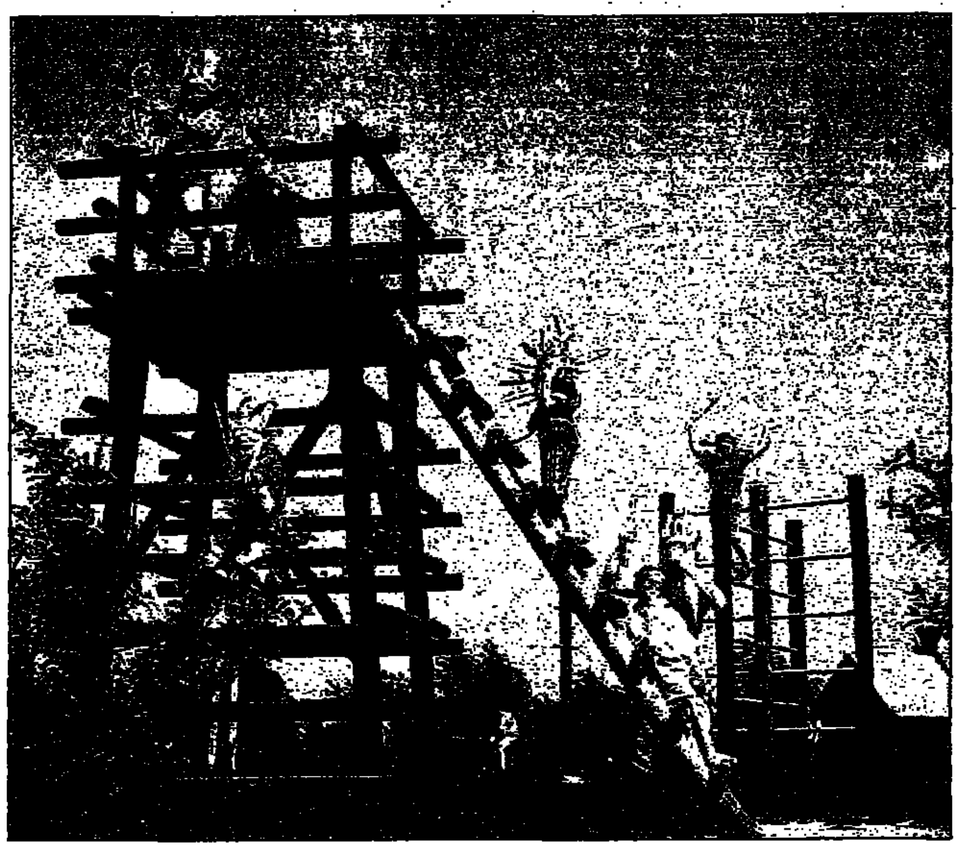
He believes that the Gran Dorado village at Zandvoort will be particularly attractive to British visitors, as it is set within a popular seaside resort with good beaches and is within easy reach of Amsterdam. "Even with the ferry crossing, a holiday at Zandvoort will cost a family far less than staying in a hotel with similar facilities," Mr van der Dussen adds.

The company earned four times more from British visitors last year than in 1994 and although the £800,000 revenue was a tiny fraction of the company's total earnings of £140 million, Mr van der Dussen believes it was a significant development.

The company has earmaked two sites close to Berlin for new villages which are expected to attract visitors from across Europe. Mr van der Dussen says: "It is hard to think of anywhere else in the world where holidaymakers could stay in a rural setting with so many facilities yet be so close to a famous city."

Julie Gould, a spokeswoman for Oasis Villages, says: "All holiday villages tend to be destinations in their own right but the choice of a site close to Penrith in a well-established tourist area for our first development will be an added advantage."

The company is seeking planning permission for a second village between Canterbury and Dover in Kent, where its proximity to the Channel might lead to a reversal of the current trend of visitors from the Continent being lured to an English park instead of British tourists being urged to go overseas.



Gran Dorado, with six holiday villages in Germany and Holland, is targeting British tourists

FERRY BARGAINS

Price cuts on duty-free

STENA Line has cut duty-free prices in a day-trip promotion valid throughout April. Litres of gin, whisky and vodka cost £7.99, with other offers on beer and cigarettes. Bookings must be made by April 20 for travel from Dover, Newhaven or Southampton, with prices £15 a car and £1 a passenger, or £5 for foot passengers. Details: 0990 767676.

☐ DRIVELINE Europe is offering advanced discounts on Le Shuttle crossings for late-night drivers. A five-day return costs £69, a 28-day return £79 for travel between 9pm and 5am, returning at any time. The offer is valid until October 30. Details: 01707 660011.

☐ HOVERSPEED has April offers for a car and five passengers. A three-day return Folkestone-Boulogne costs £49 (four days £59, five days £69). On Dover-Calais a three-day return is quoted at £59 (four days £69, five days £79). Details: 01304 240241.

☐ SWANSEA Cork Ferries has booked two jazz bands to play on October 24 crossings over the Irish Sea to celebrate the Guinness Cork Jazz Festival from October 25 to 28. The company is offering two nights B&B in Cork and ferry from £130 a person. Details: 01792 456116.

☐ LE SHUTTLE has packaged short breaks from £55 a person in the Champagne region or Le Touquet to include a crossing through the tunnel and one night B&B, based on two people sharing a room. Details: 0990 353535.

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Virgin waits for Eurostar

By Jonathan Prynn

THE handover of the Eurostar high-speed train service to a private consortium including the Virgin Group has been delayed for a month by a Brussels wrangle over the subsidy promised by the Government to the company.

London & Continental Railways (LCR) was due to take over the running of the capital-to-capital trains from the Government on April 1 after its victory in the competition for the £3 billion Channel Tunnel rail link contract. But the formal transfer of ownership of European Passenger Services (EPS), the state-owned company that operates Eurostar, is now unlikely to take place before the end of the month and could be postponed until May.

The delay, which has caused intense frustration for LCR officials, has been caused by unforeseen problems in obtaining Brussels approval for a government write-off of EPS's debts.

Britain's European partners are closely scrutinising the terms of the write-off after British complaints about the state aid paid by the Spanish Government to Iberia and by the French Government to Brittany Ferries.

An LCR official said: "Other countries want to know exactly what is happening before they rubber-stamp the deal. An issue that was thought to be non-controversial is now having to be looked at carefully. It will take only two or three weeks but it has come at an embarrassing time — just after the Iberia and Brittany Ferries problems.

"LCR is all ready to go; it's just a matter of the Department of Transport getting its act together. It is frustrating for us because we want to start sorting out the ticketing and reservations."

LCR began paying a share of EPS's operating losses, which are thought to be running at £100 million a year, from April 1 in return for being allowed some limited operational involvement before the formal handover.

Three senior former Virgin Atlantic executives have already been seconded to EPS's head office to try to start work on the ticket sales, marketing and finances of Eurostar.

Ferry aid sparks row

FRENCH government plans to give Brittany Ferries £40 million in subsidies to offset the high costs of European social chapter legislation have been attacked by the Channel Tunnel operator Le Shuttle, *Harvey Elliott writes.*

"We have protested to the French Transport Ministry and we are seeking to take it up with the European Commission," said a spokesman for Le Shuttle in London. "We want them to make a decision on whether or not this subsidy is legal and, if necessary, we will challenge it in the courts."

Rival ferry companies are still waiting for the final details of the subsidy to be made clear before deciding what to do, but it is likely that both P&O and Stena Sealink will protest.

Brittany Ferries is owned by a consortium of local authorities in northwest France. It has been complaining for years that the French insistence on complying with European labour legislation has landed the company with costs which are far higher than its British-owned rivals. French employment laws, the company says, mean that it has to pay 43 per cent of its staff salaries to the Government in the form of insurance and social costs as opposed to 12 per cent for UK companies. This amounts to more than £10 million a year, it claims, and the French Government should offer compensation.

With additional port charges and tighter controls over duty-free sales on board its vessels, Brittany Ferries claims that it is at a serious competitive disadvantage to its rivals.

The problems for Brittany Ferries are similar to those for Air France, which has also asked for subsidies and been challenged by its British competitors. It throws into sharp focus the likely costs involved in signing up for the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

Euro-sceptics will maintain that it proves that the legislation will push up prices while the French will claim that true competition can be achieved only if Britain abides by the same rules.

Devon zoo goes wild

By Harvey Elliott

PAIGNTON ZOO in Devon is to spend £6 million on transforming itself into an environmental theme park which could become a blueprint for zoos in the 21st century.

The scheme, which was unveiled yesterday, includes the creation of five specific "habitats" in which animals, insects and plants can live in conditions as close as possible to those of the wild.

The European Regional Development Fund is providing £2.9 million in grants to the zoo and the entire project should be completed in time for the summer.

Paignton Zoo was first opened in 1923 by its founder, Herbert Whitley, who wanted to teach local children about wild animals. In 1955 the Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust was formed as a scientific and educational charity to operate both the zoo and the Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve in south Devon.

More than 275,000 people visited the zoo last year and this is expected to increase to 350,000 as the new developments progress. Among the visitors were 29,000 students who took part in both residential and day courses.

The five new habitats will be: a tropical rainforest within a heated glass-covered building and elevated walkways in the upper tree canopy; a savannah area where breeding groups of endangered species will mingle with elephant and giraffe; a forest with a walk-through aviary, woodland enclosures for endangered Asiatic lions and Sumatran tigers and an island home for great apes; a wetland area will feature plant and animal life of marshlands and riverbanks; and there will also be 50 acres of Devon woodland with night viewing of resident wild badgers and artificial moonlight.

Children will be encouraged with special activity areas with features such as underwater periscopes and views inside burrows.

APEX

This Sumatran tiger at Paignton Zoo is to get a new habitat

Return to the pier

By Roger Bray

THE long decline of that curious Victorian phenomenon, the pleasure pier, has mirrored the fall from grace of the traditional British seaside holiday.

Now there is a new drive to focus interest on an often neglected aspect of coastal heritage.

This, the Year of the Pier, inevitably leans heavily on nostalgia — images of ladies promenading in long skirts, parasols and boaters protecting fair English skins against the scurge of sunburn — but the real aim of the promotion is to ensure their survival through a nationwide programme of special events.

There will be acrobatic displays over at least 11 of the 28 participating piers including Clacton, where Morecambe and Wise were once regular summer performers.

At Great Yarmouth, whose pavilion was once burnt down, allegedly by suffragettes, and where, ironically, those idols of unrestrained womanhood the Chippendales will play this summer, there will be fireworks.

Brighton's Palace Pier, where Edward VII promenaded and Gustav Holst played the trombone, was left to run down before it was rescued for posterity, and will stage an exhibition of evocative historic photographs.

Eastbourne Pier, reckoned to be one of the finest examples of Victorian engineering skill and currently undergoing a £1.5 million improvement scheme, will see raft racing and a Mad Hatter's tea party.

Clarence Pier at Southsea, where Lord Nelson clambered into a longboat en route for Trafalgar, will open two new rides: the terrifying Monster Express and the Ultimate Wave ride.

At Llandudno, former members of the old pier orchestra, once conducted by an aspiring Malcolm Sargent, will entertain holidaymakers again.

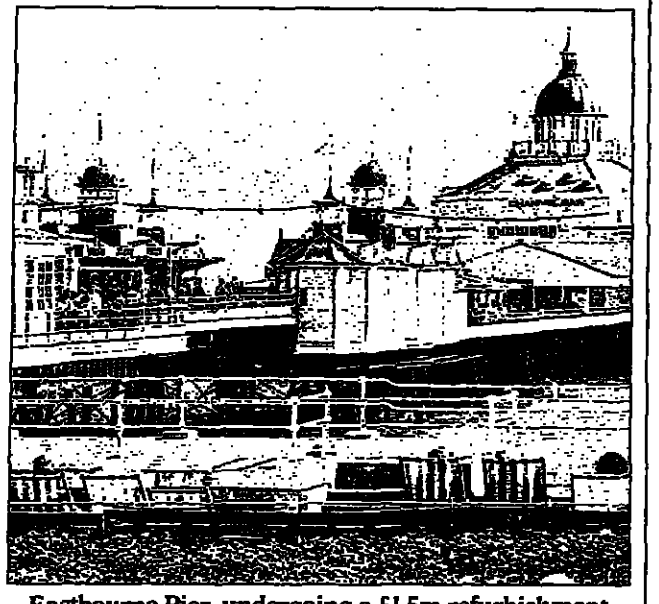
The first pier was built at Weymouth, a resort popularised by George III, the first monarch to use a bathing machine. It opened in 1812, the year of Napoleon's retreat from Moscow.

A year later came Ryde on the Isle of Wight, and by the mid-19th century, pier-building had become a mania to match the earlier digging of canals, with one or two new ones opening every year.

They were symbols of civic pride and the new economic success of Britain's seaside towns, and their popularity was enhanced by the spread of railways and the passing of the 1871 Bank Holiday Act.

They have suffered many indignities since. Felixstowe Pier was blown up twice during the Second World War for fear the enemy might land on it. Plymouth's was heavily bombed. Minehead's was wiped out altogether, to give defending gunners a clear line of sight.

Southend, the longest of all, was taken over by the Navy, ravaged by fire and cut in two by a coaster. But it stimulated Sir John Betjeman to write a line which the organisers of the promotion hope will provide inspiration for others: "The Pier is Southend. Southend is the Pier."


Eastbourne Pier, undergoing a £1.5m refurbishment

World's biggest party

By David Churchill

THE world's biggest birthday party will be held today when Inter-Continental Hotels celebrates its fiftieth anniversary by giving every guest at its 179 hotels worldwide a small birthday cake.

Cakes will vary in their ingredients from hotel to hotel, such as a praline cake in New Orleans and a traditional date cake at the hotels in Saudi Arabia. The Churchill Inter-Continental in London is creating the Winston Churchill birthday cake; the Willard Inter-Continental in Washington Abraham Lincoln's favourite election cake.

Robert Collier, Inter-Continental's joint managing director, says that 32,000 cakes will be served around the world. The anniversary of the company's formation will not be backward-looking. "We are," he says, "very conscious of our expansion plans, which means that we expect to beat easily our target of 200 hotels by the year 2000." Many of these hotels will be built in emerging overseas cities in the Far East and Latin America. Inter-Continental is opening a hotel in Taiwan later this year, followed by others in Cambodia and China.

Mr Collier admits that many of these are "difficult" destinations. "But," he says, "as an international chain serving business travellers we have to be where the markets are developing the fastest."

BARGAINS OF THE WEEK

HOLIDAYS

THE newly-launched Qantas Holidays is offering special deals to the Far East to telephone callers, with five nights in Bangkok costing £439 per person including scheduled flights, and five nights in Hong Kong costing £569. Details: 0990 673464.

☐ TENERIFE for a week in bed and breakfast accommodation is available for £259 per person from Inspirations, with flights from Glasgow on April 12 and 19 and from Gatwick for £7 less on April 19. Details: 01293 822244.

☐ SAVINGS of £185 per person for a week in Eilat, with departures from Heathrow or Manchester next Thursday, are available from Longwood Holidays. The new price for bed and breakfast accommodation is £465. Details: 0181-551 4494.

☐ SKI Savoie is offering a special price of £199 per person for the last week of the season in a catered chalet at Courchevel with departures from Gatwick on April 14. Details: 0181-715 1122.

☐ SPEND £21 a night in Kenya is the offer from Tropical Places, with three weeks' half-board at an Indian Ocean hotel costing £449 per person, with Gatwick departures on April 21 and 28. Details: 01342 825123.

☐ TURKEY for a week for £139 per person is among the late offers from Lunn Poly, with flights from Manchester on April 28. Details: 01203 225888.

☐ SRI LANKA for a week for £455 per person is available from Kuoni from April 16 to June 22. Details: 01306 740500.

HOTELS

BARGAIN spring breaks are available from Copthorne Hotels at several of its British and French properties. Rates start from £99 for two nights for two people at the Effingham Park Hotel, including a day out at the Bluebell Railway. Details: 0800 414 741.

☐ THE Portobello Townhouse Hotel, west London, is celebrating its 25th anniversary next week with a special offer of 25 per cent off normal room rates until the end of the month. Details: 0171-727 2777.

☐ THE *Good Bed and Breakfast Guide* was published yesterday by the Consumers' Association, offering more than 1,100 recommendations for as little as £15 per person per night. *Which? Books*, £14.99.

☐ AN independent guide to bed and breakfast accommodation in France, covering more than 600 properties inspected by the French Bed and Breakfast Association, has also just been published. £5.50, including postage. Details: 01491 578803.

☐ GARDEN and needlecraft weekends are the latest packages from Hilton National. First on offer is from April 26-28 at its Leeds hotel, taking in Harrogate Flower Show and Ripley Castle. Cost for two nights is £139. Details: 01923 434000 and ask for special events.

☐ MARRIOTT Hotels has produced its first golf brochure, covering seven of its UK hotels with 11 courses between them. Prices start at £69 per person per day. Details: 01582 567899.

FLIGHTS

AIR FRANCE and subsidiary Air Inter Europe have introduced a "business saver" loyalty card. Priced from £249, it provides a 30 per cent discount on business flights between London and Paris, Lyons, Bordeaux, Nice, Strasbourg and Toulouse. Details: 0181-742 6600.

☐ AT THE same time both these airlines have introduced lower, yet flexible, fares for travellers aged over 60: London-Paris costs from £114 with London-Bordeaux available from £176. Details: 0181-742 6600.

☐ FLEMISH airline VLM has launched a route between London City and Mönchengladbach. Return fares start at £85. Details: 0171-476 6677.

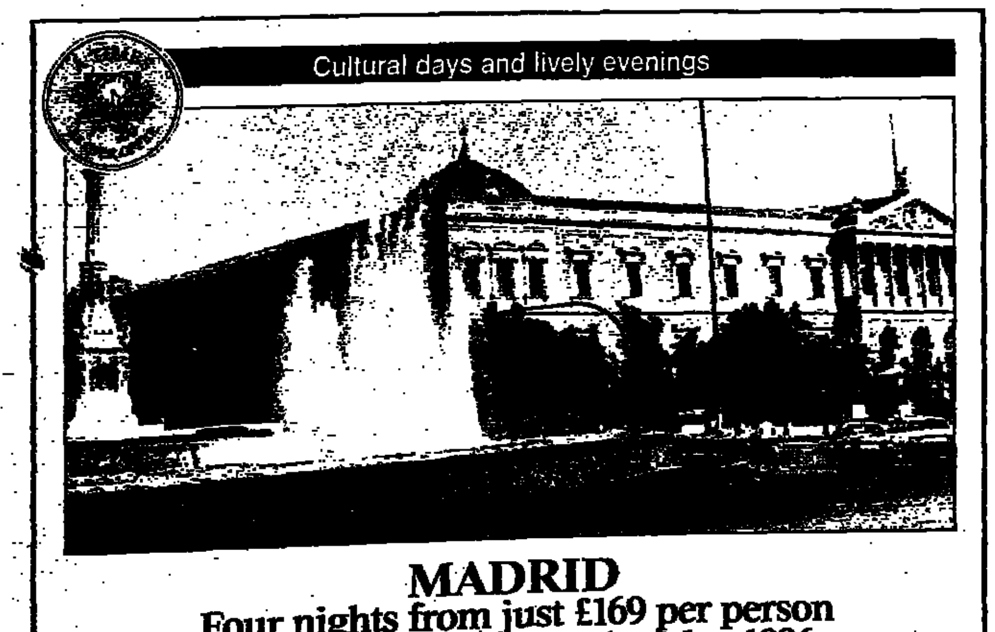
☐ SWISS Carrier Eidelweiss Air has started a five-times weekly Luton-Zurich service. Fares are £80 one way and between £109 and £129 return. Details: 01293 553717.

☐ SCANDINAVIAN Airlines has a return introductory business class fare of £240 for its new twice daily Newcastle-Copenhagen service. Details: 0345 010789.

☐ READERS wishing to stop over in the Gulf on their next business trip to the Far East or Australia can save up to 50 per cent when flying Gulf Air. *Travelbag* is charging £1,645 for business class flights to Sydney or Melbourne and Hong Kong or Singapore available for £1,445. Details: 01420 88724.

☐ TRAVELMOOD has a £482 fare to Hong Kong flying with Cathay Pacific between mid-April and mid-June. Details: 0171-258 0280.

Cultural days and lively evenings



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The holiday price includes:

- Return flights to Madrid from London Gatwick. Your flight leaves Gatwick on Wednesday morning and is due back at Gatwick early Monday morning.
- Four nights accomodation in the three star Hotel Centro Norte. £169 per person based on two people sharing a twin/double room.
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Beware the passport rush

By Harvey Elliott

ATTEMPTS to warn holidaymakers that they must now obtain a full ten-year passport before travelling abroad seem to have fallen on deaf ears.

United Kingdom Passport Agency officials say that thousands of people who have become used to buying an instant British Visitors Passport just before they go abroad may now be unable to travel if they do not have the full passport.

The BVP was formally abolished in January and even those going on a day trip to France must now buy a full ten-year passport.

But officials at the agency report that the expected rush since the BVP was dropped has not taken place.

A senior passport agency official says: "We have issued more than six million leaflets and have told everyone who bought a BVP during 1995 about its abolition. Despite the publicity, the public has been slow to react to this major change in travel documents. So far, we have not seen a significant demand from the 1.2 million people who bought BVPs in 1995."

Now the agency fears that there will be a surge in demand later this year, which could put at risk the agency's attempts to issue a passport within 15 working days.

Anyone applying now for a full passport, which costs £18, can expect to have it returned in about five working days. But the agency says that later in the year it could take up to five weeks.

Post Offices will now check applications for passports before sending them to the agency for processing at a charge of £2.75. In a new move, main Post Offices are to be allowed to sell airline tickets.

Richard Dykes, the managing director of Post Office Counters, says: "Post Offices have traditionally offered travel-related services such as passport applications and the E111 health insurance form.

"Customers can also now buy foreign currency, transfer cash internationally and take out travel insurance at 18,500 Post Offices. Offering flight tickets is a natural extension of these services."

The new service is on trial at the Trafalgar Square office in London for 18 months, during which time four or five other sites will be opened. If it proves a success, the scheme will be expanded throughout the country.

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Even the prices are an attraction in their own right; there are many special offers available this April, while during May and June, a family of four can enjoy three great days of fun and excitement for just £118* each.

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Daly seeks form in dry run for Masters

From John Hopkins, Golf Correspondent in Atlanta

IT IS April in Georgia and a golf tournament starts this morning. It cannot be the Masters already, can it? Indeed not, although the azaleas are in bloom, as is the cherry blossom and dogwood. It is the BellSouth Classic, which this year falls seven days before the start of the Masters and is thus elevated into an event of international significance.

Seven Europeans are competing at the Atlanta Country Club here, 20 miles northwest of the centre of the city where the Olympics will begin in 107 days. The invasion force is led by Colin Montgomerie, who drove here from Jacksonville, Florida, where he finished equal second in The Players' Championship on Sunday, and comprises Ian Woosnam, Severiano Ballesteros, Sandy Lyle, Costantino Rocca, Sam Torrance and Alexander Cejka.

Daly: sympathy

Few of them have any experience of this hilly course, which has bent-grass greens and swooping, tree-lined fairways, and thus is more than slightly reminiscent of Augusta. Few are in any kind of form, either. Montgomerie was the only one of those who played who made the cut in Jacksonville.

One who does know this course is Stephen Keppler, an Englishman and former Walker Cup player, who is a club professional in Georgia. Last year, almost for a lark, Keppler entered a qualifying competition and, after getting through, then almost lived out a fairy-tale by sharing the lead with Jim Gallagher Jr after 54 holes. Keppler's 71, one under par, in the fourth round was a highly creditable score for a player who was not used to tournament pressure, even though Gallagher pulled ahead of him, and Mark Calcavecchia came charging through the field to overtake them both and win.

It was here two years ago that John Daly won his first tournament after becoming a teetotaller. It was his last victory in the United States, and it came eight weeks after he returned from his suspension for leaving the course during a tournament in Hawaii. "It was more important for me than the US PGA because I won it sober," Daly, the Open champion, said. "That was when I knew I could do it — not drink, I mean. I had been sober for five months then."

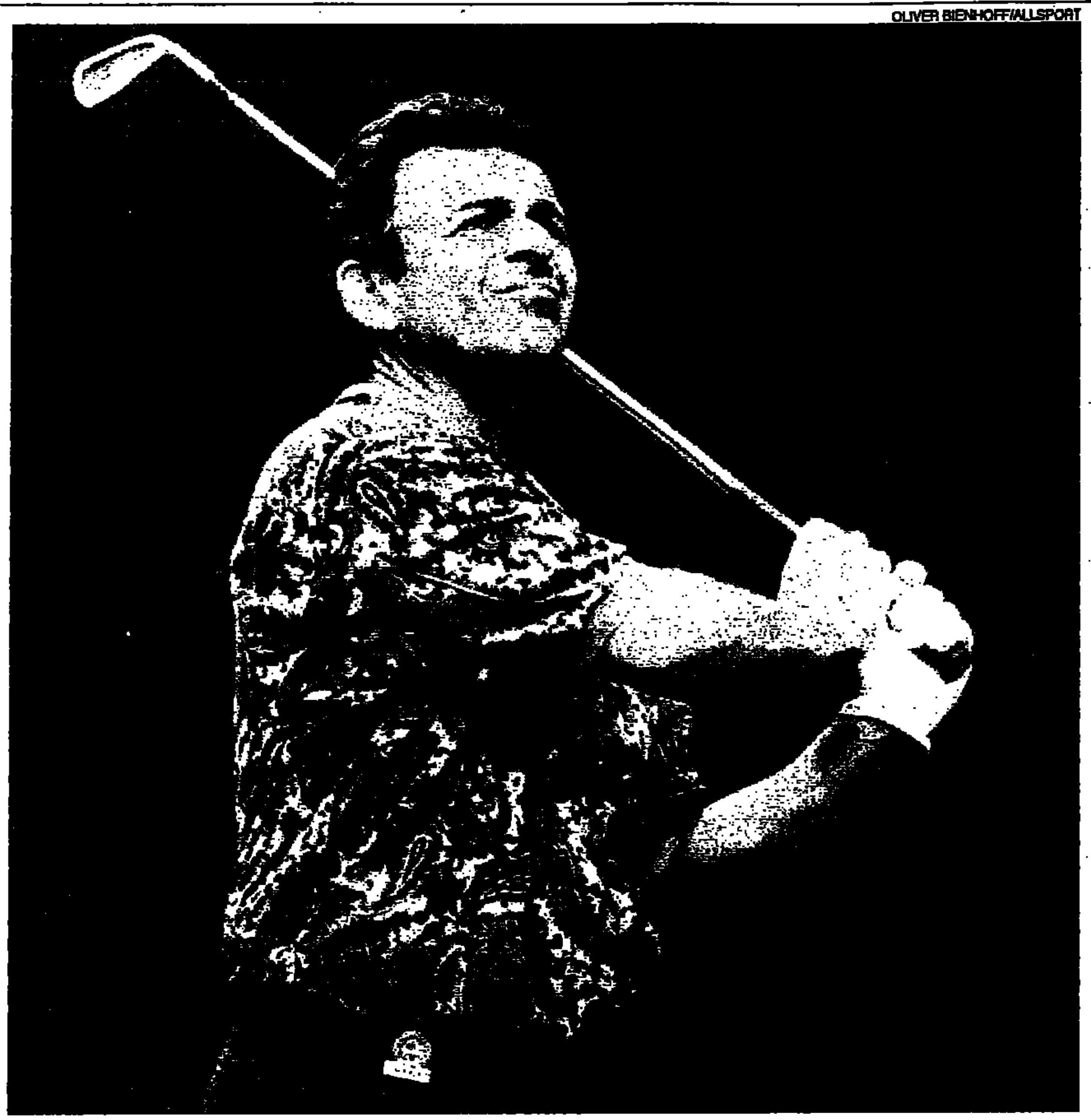
There are days when Daly can be a beguiling figure, when his tendency to give up in tournaments in which he starts badly is forgotten, and when his hell-raising past appears to be behind him. There are at present an increasing number of days when Daly appears to be accepting the responsibilities that go with his status as the only player under 30 to hold two major championships. He is realising he has become a folk hero to blue-collar workers: the people's champion.

The other night he was wandering around the hotel waving cheerfully at friends. In an open-necked shirt and shorts, he cut an increasingly sympathetic figure as he bravely ignored the siren calls of the bar. He has started practising much harder, too. This was first noticeable in Singapore in January, when he stepped off the plane and went straight to the practice ground for three hours, and it has continued. This is in marked contrast to last year, when he sometimes did no more than hit a few drives and putts before a tournament.

"Last Sunday we had a 12.50 tee-time and John wanted me at the course by 9.20," Greg Rita, Daly's caddie, said. "Thursday we were there at 10 o'clock for a 1.20pm start. He has already practised more this year than all of last."

Daly needs to, however, because in the six events he has competed in this year he has won less than £50,000, and even his traditional strength, his long hitting, seems to have deserted him. He ranks 150th in accuracy and 35th in distance this year. When he hooked a drive last Sunday, he threw the club to a child in his gallery and said: "Here, take this. You can hit it better than I can."

OLIVER BIENHOFF/ALLSPORT



Jacklin, feeling the pressure on the US Senior Tour, is in a hurry to become a two-million dollar man

Jacklin seizing second chance

A former Open champion, topping up his pension fund, talks to **Patricia Davies**

Tony Jacklin is having fun but he is a man under pressure. At 51, he is fretting about dollars, constantly calculating, totting up every cent as he edges closer to his goal — a safe haven well inside the top 70 all-time money-winners in America.

Once there, the former British and US Open champion will be able to relax a little, knowing his place on the lucrative Senior PGA Tour, a golden nest egg for the silver-haired, is secure.

"I need to get to two million dollars sharpish," Jacklin, who has won twice since he joined the tour in July 1994 and is now 78th on the all-time list with $1,026,864, said. "I've been moderately successful up to now but I'm still grinding. The thought of having to go to the qualifying school petrifies me."

Having played in Europe for most of his career, he earned only $352,179 on the US PGA Tour. Last season he played 35 tournaments and finished 31st on the Senior money-list, earning $387,214 but retaining his exempt status by just $317 — only the top 31 earners each year are guaranteed to be among the chosen few the following year.

The tour — golf's invitation not to retire — has grown from two tournaments worth $250,000 in 1980 to 44 events worth $37 million in 1996. Cadillac, one of the leading sponsors, reckoned over $250 million worth of business was a direct result of their involvement. The tour is not the greatest thing since sliced bread — it is manna from heaven.

Jacklin, one of the crumb-chasers, sees his decision to stay in Europe in his prime as a mistake. He lost his zest for the game that had been his life and was glad to give it up. Now he is eager again. "Having a second opportunity is fantastic," he said, "but this time I was determined to do it for me. I'm playing for fun again, to see how good I can be — like I started out to do."

Jacklin looks after his game and Astrid, his wife, in Florida supervising the builders this week (the house should be ready next month), takes care of everything else. He is loving the challenge, although he stresses the strains.

"I don't believe for a minute that people fully understand how difficult it is to stay out here on this tour. There are 78 spots every week and, if you're not in that 78, you're nowhere. The money's there, but you've got to play like hell to get any of it. I suspect people think the fat bellies, these old guys, are only playing exhibition golf, but not one person out here sees it as an exhibition tour."

Certainly not Jim Colbert, last season's No 1, nor Raymond Floyd, nor Dave Stockton, nor Bob Murphy, nor Isao Aoki, the Jacklin of Japan. They all won more than $1 million in 1995. And certainly not the irrepressible Gary Player, second in three of the last four events, fit as a flea at 60, extolling the virtues of the tour's new official health drink, raving about his new driver that hits it 25-30 yards further and railing against the iniquities of ageism — "brainwashing", he calls it.

This week they are all at The Tradition at Desert Mountain in Arizona's Sonora desert, north of Phoenix, to be even more spoilt than they are most weeks. The event's avowed intention is to provide a week of camaraderie — with some fierce competition thrown in — for the legends of the game. The trophy, discovered in Scotland, looks remarkably like an old claret jug but, sadly, Brian Barnes, the Senior British Open champion, was not invited. The British event is considered a worthy one by Player but not by the powers-that-be in the land of the free.

The purse is a million dollars, the setting is majestic, with mouthwatering mountain views and towering saguaro cactus far older than Player will ever be, and Jack Nicklaus defends the title. Named golfer of the century as long ago as 1988, he could claim his hundredth victory on Easter Sunday, although he might prefer to wait a week — until Augusta.

Take a tip from Leadbetter and you will be in good company

By Mel Webb

AS THOUGH proof of its constantly enhanced status in the world of amateur golf were needed, *The Times* MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge has forged a link with the best-known golf coach in the world.

David Leadbetter is the man who turned Nick Faldo from a good player into one of the greatest British golfers of all time, and his teaching methods have set the standard to which many aspire but few achieve.

Leadbetter has a client list that is the envy of his fellow teachers. It includes Faldo, Nick Price, David Frost, Bernhard Langer, Ernie Els and many more. Faldo and Leadbetter met in the mid-Eighties, and the Worthing-born Zimbabwean methodically took apart the component parts of Faldo's swing and pieced it back together. The Faldo that emerged went on to win three Open Championships and two Masters titles.

David Leadbetter Golf Academies (DLGA), a network of 16 teaching facilities in a dozen countries, is the official supplier of golf instruction to the Corporate Challenge, and will be supporting the competition throughout the season, as well as being at the national final in Spain in November and some of the regional finals.

The European headquarters of the Academies is at Chart Hills in Kent. Designed by Faldo, the course will host one of the Challenge's regional finals in October. "We're delighted to be involved with the Challenge," Michael Pask, the European manager of DLGA, said. "It is a high-quality event and is just the sort of tournament with which we like to be identified."

Pask's comments were echoed by John Mitchell, managing director of Mitchell Marketing Associates, which conceived the Challenge and continues to run it on behalf of the joint title sponsors, *The Times* and MeesPierson, the Dutch-owned merchant bank.

"The association with DLGA is further testimony to the quality names that are involved with our event," Mitchell said. "The pinnacle of our tournament is always the national final at La Manga, and last year we enjoyed the company of the Titleist long-driving team, Mark Adams and Rick Glynn, who are now officially established as the biggest hitters in world golf.

"This year our national finalists will have the opportunity to witness at first hand the methods that have made the David Leadbetter Golf Academies the best in the business. We will be looking to provide competition possibilities for readers of *The Times* and the players in the Challenge."

The Academies are staffed by world-class instructors who have received personal coaching by Leadbetter. Selected personally by Leadbetter, they are certified instructors in the "Leadbetter Method", the essential strength of which is that the same guiding principles taught to leading professionals can also be used to help amateur players, whether they be low or high handicappers, or even complete beginners.

Leadbetter: coaches Faldo

Golf is just about the perfect medium for company executives to be with clients or prospective customers — there are few other corporate hospitality exercises that give the opportunity to hold the exclusive attention of the persons with whom one is playing for between four and five hours.

In a little over three years, the Challenge has established itself as a powerful extra tool for company golf day organisers. Its philosophy has always been constantly to provide more value to those entering; its link with DLGA is just another illustration of the point.

Details of how to enter the Challenge can be obtained from the Challenge offices (0171 436 3415).

☐ Mr I. McBain, of 10 Clarendon Road, Boston Spa, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, is the winner of the Challenge launch competition to win a set of Titleist DCI irons.

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هكذا من الاصل

Hughes fined and banned for high points tally

By Our Sports Staff

MARK HUGHES, the Chelsea forward, was yesterday banned for two matches and fined £1,000 by the Football Association for accumulating 45 disciplinary points. Hughes, who has been booked 14 times and sent off once this season, will miss the matches against Aston Villa at Stamford Bridge on Saturday and at Bolton on Easter Monday. He said: "I can't have any complaints about the fairness of the hearing. I just have to accept it."

Glenn Hoddle, the Chelsea manager, accompanied Hughes to the hearing. "It is about what we expected, but it is a shame because we will miss Mark's experience over the next couple of matches," he said. "It's an important time for us because it looks as though we might have to win all our remaining games to qualify for Europe next season and Mark is a big loss. I think the bookings he has had have been for petty things and we are going to have to do something about that.

"But he has not been booked for anything malicious and it's just that the new rules on bookings this season have made things hard." Hughes, 32, has served three suspensions, totalling seven matches, this season.

In February last year, Ian Wright, the Arsenal forward, was banned for four matches and also fined £1,000 after collecting more than 41 points for accumulated bookings.

Mick Harford, of Wimbledon, escaped with a warning after pleading guilty to a charge of bringing the game into disrepute. He was charged for making gestures at Chelsea supporters during the FA Cup quarter-final draw at Stamford Bridge last month. Steve Double, the FA spokesman, said: "Harford was censured and warned as to his future conduct and has accepted the charge."

Harford, 37, said: "I suppose it's fair enough, but this was my first appearance in front of the FA disciplinary people in my 20-year career, and I don't think that's bad."

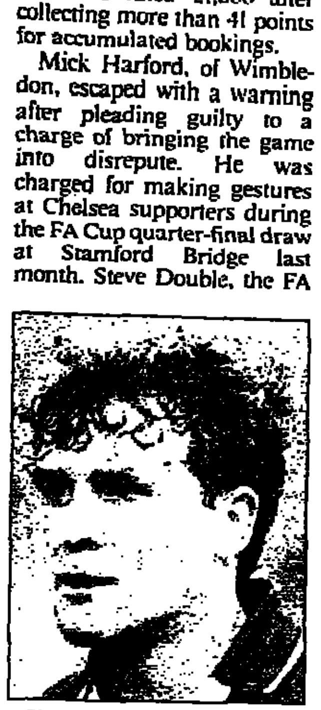
Mark Ford, of Leeds United, was also due to appear before the FA after accumulating 45 disciplinary points, but his involvement in last night's FA Carling Premiership match against Southampton at Elland Road meant that his case will now be dealt with by letter.

Double said: "We cannot release details of any punishment until the player and his club have been informed."

Manchester United's achievements last month were recognised by two awards yesterday. Eric Cantona was named Carling player of the month and Alex Ferguson picked up the March managerial award. Cantona's award was in recognition of the string of vital goals he scored to take United to the top of the Premiership. He scored all four of United's league goals during the month, and his goal against Tottenham Hotspur at Old Trafford on March 24 was his fiftieth in 100 league appearances for the club.

Ferguson's award is his fourth under Carling's sponsorship and his second of the season. Ferguson also denied contacting European Cup semi-finalists Panathinaikos about George Donis. United scouts were said to have watched the 27-year-old winger in action against Legia Warsaw and were reportedly watching him again in Amsterdam last night when the Greek club played Ajax in the European Cup semi-finals.

Donis, who has 20 international caps, is recognised as the fastest winger in Greek football and is out of contract this summer. Ferguson said: "We're watching players all over Europe, but we have not been in touch with Panathinaikos."



Hughes: no complaints

Tottenham taking no risks with Anderton

DARREN ANDERTON, the England and Tottenham Hotspur midfield player, has had another setback in his efforts to regain full fitness in time for the European championship this summer (Russell Kempson writes).

Anderton was due to play in a reserve match against West Ham United on Tuesday but was forced to withdraw after suffering some reaction following a training session.

It is now unlikely that he will return to the Tottenham first team for the game against Nottingham Forest on Saturday, as had been hoped, and time is running out for him to earn inclusion in the England squad for the European finals, although Terry Venables, the England coach, has promised to keep a place open for him as long as possible.

Anderton, 24, had groin surgery in September. "It was a big operation," Tony Lenaghan, the Tottenham physiotherapist, said. "We can't rush it and risk another strain or pull."

Gareth Southgate, the Aston Villa defender, another player hoping to play in the European championship, was told by a specialist yesterday that he will not require surgery on the knee injury received against Liverpool on Sunday. He hopes to be back for the final match of the season, against Everton.

MICHAL DOLEZAL

Dugarry, right, beats the Slavia Prague defender, Karel Poborsky, during Bordeaux's Uefa Cup win on Tuesday

Barcelona score vital away goals

By Our Sports Staff

THE sound of shattering illusions was too much for many in Munich on Tuesday night. A quarter-final trouncing of Nottingham Forest and then a league defeat of Borussia Dortmund had convinced many Bayern supporters that their team was not simply good enough to win the Uefa Cup, it was destined to, it was simply pre-ordained. But, before a near-capacity crowd underneath the trademark canopy of the Olympic Stadium, Barcelona prompted a rapid and unwelcome rethink.

A 2-2 draw in the first leg of their semi-final gave Barcelona, none too impressive in the Spanish league this season, a huge advantage for the return in the Nou Camp in a fortnight's time. Two away goals could, indeed should, be priceless in a tie between European giants such as these.

Otto Rehhagel, the Bayern coach, admitted as much afterwards: "We are going to have to play better than we did in the first half in front of 90,000 fans in Barcelona," he said. "Barcelona played some great one-touch football tonight. We still have a chance, but we have to win there now."

The game began badly for the Germans when Oscar Garcia, one of the lesser-known support acts to Barcelona's big-name, big-money headliners, scored an excellent opening goal after just 15 minutes. Marcel Witeczek and Mehmet Scholl struck in the second half to give Bayern the lead, but then Gheorghe Hagi, the talented if erratic Romania playmaker, took advantage of a calamitous back-pass from the German international defender, Markus Babbel, to score in the 77th minute. Bayern's celebrations of an anticipated home win were cut short.

In contrast, Bordeaux's visit to the Czech Republic for their semi-final first-leg match with Slavia Prague was relatively low-key — smaller stadium, smaller crowd — but the stakes were the same and, to a degree, so was the outcome. It was the away team who secured a clear advantage, Bordeaux exceeding Barcelona's achievement with a 1-0 win.

Christophe Dugarry, who struck twice in Bordeaux's quarter-final victory over Milan, was unmarked when he scored in the seventh minute from a cross by Zinedine Zidane. Stoic French defence did the rest.

"There was an early goal and that's what decided the match, but there's still hope," the Slavia coach, Frantisek Cipro, said. "We left Zidane and Dugarry alone and paid by going down 1-0 very early, but we have played very well up to now in the cup games and not all is lost. We just have to play hard again and then see."

Deportívo's final aim

DEPORTÍVO La Coruña aim to take a step closer to their first European final when they meet Paris Saint-Germain in the Cup Winners' Cup today.

Coached by John Toshack, the Spanish team, runners-up to Real Madrid and winners of the domestic King's Cup in their best season last year, will have a capacity crowd of 28,000 in their compact Riazor stadium for their first-leg tie.

PSG will be without Rai, their Brazil midfield player, who is injured. One of Deportivo's Brazilians, Mauro Silva, the midfield player, will also be sidelined with injury, but Bebeto will lead their attack.

In the other semi-final, Rapid Vienna travel to Rotterdam — where they lost 3-1 in the final to Everton in 1985 — to meet Feyenoord, who have won the Champions' Cup and Uefa Cup but have never made it to the Cup Winners' Cup final.

Srinath on song as Sri Lanka run out of steam

By Our Sports Staff

SRI LANKA'S spectacular run of success came to an abrupt end in Singapore yesterday when they lost a Singer Cup one-day cricket match to India by 12 runs. Their batsmen, so exciting in winning the World Cup and setting a host of one-day records in Tuesday's victory over Pakistan, failed to reach an apparently modest India total of 199.

Javagal Srinath and Venkatapathy Raju shared seven wickets to stifle the Sri Lankan onslaught. Srinath, the man of the match, captured four for 35 and Raju took three for 26 as Sri Lanka were bowled out for 187 with 11 balls left.

Srinath, gaining significant movement off the seam, plunged Sri Lanka to 23 for four at one stage, his three early victims including Sanath Jayasuriya for seven, 24 hours after the opener had set three one-day records while scoring 134 against Pakistan.

Srinath's new-ball partner, Venkatesh Prasad, accounted for Aravinda de Silva, who was caught at square leg by Rahul Dravid. Raju, flighting his deliveries intelligently, then persuaded Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, to hole out at mid-wicket before Roshan Mahanama and Hashan Tillekeratne put on 92 for the sixth wicket to bring Sri Lanka within sight of their target. But, after Tillekeratne, attempting to clear the boundary, lofted Raju to Prasad at long-on, Sri Lanka soon folded.

Mahanama was the pick of the Sri Lanka batsmen, scoring 59 off 124 balls on a slow pitch. Srinath returned to the attack later in the innings to bowl Chaminda Vaas with a perfect yorker while two run-outs sealed Sri Lanka's fate.

Earlier, only a defiant 94 by Navjot Sidhu, an opener, had saved India from collapse. Sidhu, who hit only four boundaries in his 116-ball innings, did not field because he had been sent to hospital suffering from exhaustion and dehydration in the hot and humid conditions. He was later released from hospital and is expected to play against Pakistan tomorrow.

Davis falls at first hurdle again

By Phil Yates

DARREN MORGAN and Steve Davis, the winner and runner-up in last week's Benson and Hedges Irish Masters, encountered contrasting fortunes in the British Open snooker tournament at Plymouth yesterday.

Morgan, who beat Davis 9-8 at Goffs on Sunday to capture the first title of his professional career, again engaged in a spot of brinkmanship. He recovered from 3-1 and 4-3 down to improve his chances of remaining among the game's eight leading players for next season by beating Martin Clark 5-4 in the second round.

However, Davis, who has not won a tournament since the Regal Welsh Open 15 months ago, suffered his third first-round defeat of the campaign when he unexpectedly lost 5-2 to Mark Johnston-Allen, of Bristol.

Although Johnston-Allen has defeated Stephen Hendry on three occasions and beaten both Jimmy White and Ronnie O'Sullivan in the past, he has struggled of late and was consumed by nerves before meeting Davis.

Not surprisingly, Davis controlled the tactical exchanges but his recent inability to capitalise on the majority of scoring opportunities left him vulnerable.

Johnston-Allen, the world No 49, opened with a run of 69 in the first frame, led 3-1 at the mid-session interval, crucially stole the sixth on the pink for a 4-2 lead and did not allow Davis to score a single point in the next.

Tony Knowles earned an appearance in the third round of a ranking event for the first time since the 1994 International Open with a 5-4 victory over James Wattana, the No 5 seed.

Knowles, benefiting from a vast improvement on the dismal form that has seen him slide from a career-high world ranking of No 2 to his present position of No 43, compiled breaks of 99, 77 and 119.

In the first round, Hendry included clinical contributions of 62, 80, 62, 82, 83 and 60 in overwhelming Terry Murphy 5-1.

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Cincinnati 4 Montreal 1, Pittsburgh 4 Florida 1; Colorado 5 Philadelphia 3, Houston 5 Los Angeles 4

AMERICAN LEAGUE: New York 7 Cleveland 1; Baltimore 4 Kansas City 2, Detroit 10 Minnesota 6, Seattle 3 Chicago 2; Milwaukee 15 California 9

BADMINTON

NORWICH: English national championships: Men: Singles: Second round: D Hall (Essex) bt A Clark (Notts) 15-1, 15-1; A Bush (Wilts) bt C Fenton (Yorks) 15-6, 15-8, P Knowles (Kent) bt P Hinder (Wilts) 15-13, 15-7; R Doing (Kent) bt S Isaac (Sussex) 15-9, 15-2; R Nock (Gloucs) bt S Pandya (Staffs) 15-8, 15-11. Quarter-finals: P Bush (Wilts) bt N Waterman (Kent) 15-5, 15-3; Knowles bt Nock 15-9, 15-3; Hall bt Bush 15-8, 15-11; C Haughton (Lancs) bt R Doing (Kent) 15-10, 15-3. Women: Singles: First round: R Pantaney (Gloucs) bt C Coombs (Herts) 11-8, 11-1; S Hore (Hants) bt J Wilmott (Yorks) 11-6, 11-5; A Goodall (Middx) bt J Butters (Kent) 11-4, 11-7; D Kellogg (Derbys) bt T Middleton (Kent) 6-11, 11-6, 11-3. S Hardaker (Kent) bt J Sullivan (Gloucs) 11-0, 11-7; E Chaffin (Surrey) bt L Woodley (Berks) 11-5, 11-2; K Brydon (Bucks) bt E Miles (Cheshire) 7-11, 11-7, 11-2; T Hallam (Staffs) bt N Munt (Herts) 11-3, 4-11, 11-7. Second round: J Muggeridge (Kent) bt Pantaney 11-1, 11-2; T Groves (Sussex) bt Goodall 11-7, 11-4; Kellog bt A Reed (Berks) 11-4, 11-5, J Mann (Warwicks) bt Hardaker 11-8, 11-1. Hore bt T Watson (Derbys) 11-6, 11-0; Chaffin bt J Foster (Cumbria) 11-1, 11-2. A Humby (Hants) bt Brydon 11-7, 11-1. Hallam bt W Taylor (Surrey) 11-2, 10-12, 11-8. Quarter-finals: Groves bt Chaffin 11-6, 4-11, 12-9. Humby (Hants) bt Kellogg 11-1, 11-4; Mann bt Hallam 3-11, 11-8, 11-5. Hore w/o Muggeridge scr

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Toronto 104 LA Clippers 103, Atlanta 109 Boston 89, New York 90 Indiana 86, Chicago 110 Miami 92; Charotte 102 LA Lakers 97, Sacremento 102 Dallas 97; Milwaukee 105 Detroit 98; Denver 86 Minnesota 78; Seattle 100 Utah 91; Phoenix 111 San Antonio 104; Portland 101 Vancouver 85; Houston 112 Golden State 106

BOXING

VEJLE, Denmark: European amateur championships: Preliminary round (selected results): 57kg: S Harrison (Scot) bt J Nagy (Hun) pts. 60kg: J Konecny (Cz) bt J Cook (Wales) pts. 71kg: M Beyer (Ger) bt L Murphy (Scot) rsc 1st

CRICKET

Singer Cup

India v Sri Lanka

SINGAPORE (India won toss): India beat Sri Lanka by 12 runs

INDIA

S R Tendulkar c Muralitharan b Wickremasinghe	28
N S Sidhu b Vaas	94
*M Azharuddin run out	9
R Dravid c Kaluwitharana b Muralitharan	3
S V Manjrekar lbw Muralitharan	7
A D Jadeja c Chandana b Jayasuriya	7
†N R Mongia c and b de Silva	4
A Kumble c Atapattu b de Silva	4
J Srinath not out	28
V Prasad c Jayasuriya b Vaas	7
S L V Raju b Vaas	0
Extras (lb 2, w 2, nb 4)	8
Total (45.4 overs)	199

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-33, 2-58, 3-62, 4-82, 5-114, 6-130, 7-136, 8-191, 9-199.

BOWLING: Wickremasinghe 8-0-39-1, Vaas 7.4-0-35-3, Muralitharan 8-0-25-2, Chandana 10-0-52-0, Jayasuriya 8-0-31-1, de Silva 4-0-15-2

SRI LANKA

S T Jayasuriya c Manjrekar b Srinath	7
†R S Kaluwitharana c Azharuddin b Srinath	4
M S Atapattu lbw Srinath	11
P A de Silva c Dravid b Prasad	1
R S Mahanama c Jadeja b Raju	59
*A Ranatunga c Azharuddin b Raju	13
H P Tillekaratne c Prasad b Raju	42
U U Chandana run out	11
W P U C J Vaas b Srinath	6
M Muralitharan not out	7
G P Wickremasinghe run out	11
Extras (b 8, w 7, nb 1)	16
Total (48.1 overs)	187

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-12, 3-13, 4-23, 5-53, 6-145, 7-163, 8-169, 9-169

BOWLING: Srinath 10-0-35-4; Prasad 10-2-39-1; Kumble 10-1-46-0; Raju 10-1-26-3; Tendulkar 5.1-0-19-0; Jadeja 3-0-14-0.

Man of the match: J Srinath.

Umpires: R Tiffin (Zim) and G Sharp (Eng). Third umpire: D Orchard (SA)

ADELAIDE: Sheffield Shield: Final (final day of five): Western Australia 520-9 dec (A Gilchrist 189 not out, R Baker 83, T Moody 68, B Hogg 61) and 169-8 dec (Moody 72); South Australia 347 (P Nobes 103, J Brayshaw 87; B Julian 5-95) and 208-9 (G Blewett 72, Brayshaw 66). Match drawn. South Australia win Sheffield Shield

FOOTBALL

COPA LIBERTADORES: Group two: Sporting Cristal (Peru) 0 Defensor Sporting (Uru) 0 (at Lima).

Tuesday's late results

UEFA CUP: Semi-finals: First legs: Bayern Munich 2 Barcelona 2; Slavia Prague 0 Bordeaux 1

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley 2 Norwich 2; Birmingham 2 Portsmouth 0; Charlton 0 Leicester 1; Crystal Palace 2 Port Vale 2, Huddersfield 3 Reading 1; Ipswich 1 Derby 0; Oldham 1 Grimsby 0; Sheffield United 3 Southend 0; Tranmere 2 Millwall 2; Watford 3 Sunderland 3, West Bromwich 0 Luton 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland	39	20	13	6	56	31	73
Derby	40	18	14	8	59	44	68
C Palace	40	17	15	8	60	44	66
Charlton	38	16	14	8	52	41	62
Ipswich	38	16	11	11	69	55	59
Huddersfield	39	15	11	13	53	50	56
Leicester	39	14	13	12	55	56	55
Stoke	37	14	12	11	48	41	54
Southend	40	14	12	14	47	52	54
Barnsley	39	13	14	12	53	58	53
Port Vale	37	13	13	11	48	47	52
Wolverhmptn	38	13	12	13	52	50	51
Birmingham	39	13	12	14	52	52	51
Norwich	40	12	13	15	51	48	49
Tranmere	38	12	12	14	51	48	48
Sheff Utd	40	12	12	16	47	51	48
Grimsby	38	12	12	14	44	53	48
Millwall	40	12	12	16	39	55	48
Portsmouth	40	11	12	17	56	63	45
West Brom	39	12	9	18	48	61	45
Reading	38	9	16	13	44	52	43
Oldham	38	10	12	16	46	45	42
Luton	38	10	10	18	34	50	40
Watford	38	6	16	16	43	58	34

SECOND DIVISION: Brentford 1 Stockport 0; Bristol Rovers 1 Bradford 0; Burnley 0 Bournemouth 0; Carlisle 1 Crewe 0; Chesterfield 1 Blackpool 0; Hull 2 Bristol City 3; Oxford United 0 Wrexham 0, Rotherham 2 Notts County 0; Swansea 0 Peterborough 0; Walsall 0 Wycombe 1; York 1 Shrewsbury 2. Third division: Barnet 1 Cardiff 0, Bury 3 Fulham 0; Cambridge United 0 Northampton 1; Chester 1 Leyton Orient 1; Colchester 1 Rochdale 0, Gillingham 0 Darlington 0; Hereford 1 Doncaster 0, Lincoln 3 Scarborough 1; Plymouth 1 Mansfield 0, Preston 1 Torquay 0; Scunthorpe 2 Hartlepool 1, Wigan 1 Exeter 0

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Northwich 1 Gateshead 2, Telford 2 Hednesford 1

SEMI-PROFESSIONAL INTERNATIONAL: England 3 Holland 1 (at Rushden).

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: FAI League 0 League of Wales 1

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Blyth Spartans 2 Droylsden 1; Marine 1 Colwyn Bay 1. First division: Congleton 3 Ashton United 0, Curzon Ashton 1 Radcliffe 2; Lincoln United 4 Whitley Bay 3, Workington 2 Gretna 2. League Cup: Fourth round replays: Leek 2 Boston 0. President's Cup: Semi-final: First leg: Worksop 1 Bamber Bridge 0

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Gravesend and Northfleet 1 Merthyr 0; Gresley 1 Hastings 1, Stafford 0 Sudbury 1. Midland division: Kings Lynn 3 Redditch 0; Rothwell 4 Evesham 1; Stourbridge 0 RC Warwick 0; Sutton Coldfield 1 Bilston 0. Southern division: Ashford 3 Forest Green 0, Clevedon 1 Bashley 2; Tonbridge Angels 0 Poole 2; Waterlooville 1 Weymouth 0; Weston-super-Mare 5 Braintree 0; Yate 1 Trowbridge 0. Dr Martens Cup: Third-round replays: Moor Green 1 Nuneaton 1

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop's Stortford 2 Hitchin 2; St Albans 0 Boreham Wood 0; Yeading 0 Hendon 0, Yeovil 2 Purfleet 1. Postponed: Grays v Carshalton. First division: Barking 0 Chesham 2; Heybridge Swifts 3 Barton 1, Maidenhead United 1 Uxbridge 2; Marlow 0 Aldershot Town 3, Staines 4 Billericay 1; Wembley 2 Bognor Regis 1. Second division: Bracknell 6 Wivenhoe 0; Canvey Island 2 Metropolitan Police 0; Chalfont St Peter 0 Ware 0; Cheshunt 3 Hungerford 2, Egham 0 Collier Row 1; Hampton 5 Banstead 4, Hemel Hempstead 0 Bedford Town 3. Third division: Aveley 0 Leighton 1; Cove 0 Kingsbury 0, Epsom and Ewell 1 Hertford 1, Flackwell Heath 1 Northwood 2; Southall 0 Windsor and Eton 3. Guardian Insurance Cup: Fourth round replay: Kingstonian 2 Aylesbury 1

LEAGUE OF WALES: Newtown 3 Conwy 0. Postponed: Ebbw Vale v Caersws

BANK'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich 3 Wednesfield FC 1, Darlaston FC 0 Pelsall Villa 2; Walsall Wood FC 1 Lichfield 1.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: West Ham 0 Tottenham 2.

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedfont 1 Ashford 0; Farnham 2 Netherne 2; Merstham 1 Cranleigh 1.

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Knowle 0 Alvechurch Villa 0; Upton 1 Bloxwich 3

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Romford 3 Burnham Ramblers 1

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Whickham 1 Peterlee 1

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Mangotsfield 2 Tiverton 0; Paulton 3 Bristol Manor Farm 1, Westbury 2 Odd Down 1.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Banbury 1 Burnham 3.

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Stotfold 2 Wootton 0; Wellingborough 2 Cogenhoe 3

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Halesowen Harriers 1 Blakenall 1, Oldbury 1 West Midlands Police 0, Sandwell 3 Barwell 1, Stratford 1 Boldmere Swifts 0, Willenhall 0 Rushall Olympic 3

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Intercity: Liverpool 1 London 3. South-west Counties under-19 championship: Dorset 2 Somerset 1

HOCKEY

AEWHA CUP: Semi-final draw: Chelmsford v Clifton, Doncaster v Ipswich

AEWHA PLATE: Semi-final draw: Bishop's Stortford v Worksop, Welton v Kettering

Ties to be played May 5

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Philadelphia 6 NY Islanders 2; NY Rangers 3 New Jersey 1; San Jose 6 Detroit 3

MOTOR RACING

GOLD COAST, Australia: Gold Coast IndyCar race: 1, J Vasser (US, Honda) (145.1kmph); 2, S Pruett (US, Ford) at 7.75sec; 3, G Moore (Can, Mercedes); 4, M Gugelmin (Br, Ford), 5, C Fittipaldi (Br, Ford), 6, S Johansson (Swe, Mercedes) all same lap. Drivers' championship: 1, Vasser 47pts; 2, Pruett 42; 3, Fittipaldi 28; 4, A Ribeiro (Br) 25

RUGBY UNION

HART GILMORE FOUR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: Greater Birmingham 12 Worcester and Hereford 32

SUPER 12 TOURNAMENT: Canterbury 18 Northern Transvaal 34 (at Christchurch), Queensland 36 Western Province 26 (at Brisbane); Waikato 26 Australian Capital Territory 18 (at Whangarei)

SKIING

TIGNES: France: British Land national junior championships: Giant slalom: Boys Under 16: 1, T Lockyer (Romsey) 55.03sec; 2, M Liddell (Ballater) 57.25, 3, C Oliveira (Plymouth) 58.35. Under 14: 1, T Clough (Chelmsford) 58.80; 2, T Hutchison (Edinburgh) 59.78, 3, T Carr (Hythe) 1min 0.32. Girls Under 16: 1, C Alcott (Twickenham) 58.83, 2, J Greig (Thames Ditton) 1:0.79; 3, A Cutshaw (Deeside) 1:02.08. Under 14: 1 D Bosher (Teddington) 1:02.73; 2, K Head (Oxford) 1:03.30; 3, L Hartley (Edinburgh) 1:05.58.

SNOOKER

PLYMOUTH: British Open: First round (England unless stated): S Lee bt T Griffiths (Wales) 5-2; R O'Sullivan bt O King 5-2; J Higgins (Scot) bt J Burnett (Scot) 5-1; J Swail (N Ire) bt B Snaddon (Scot) 5-2; J White (Eng) bt M Stevens (Wales) 5-3; N Foulds (Eng) bt Y Merchant (India) 5-4; S Hendry (Scot) bt T Murphy (N Ire) 5-1; M Johnston-Allen bt S Davis 5-2. Second round: N Bond bt D O'Kane (NZ) 5-1

SQUASH

CARDIFF: Leekes British Open: Men: First round: (England unless stated) J Bonetat (Fr) bt R Dubach (SA) 15-8, 15-6, 15-7. C Walker bt G Waite (Can) 15-10, 15-3, 14-15, 15-10; A Gough (Wales) bt D Harris 15-2, 10-15, 10-15, 15-5, 15-10; P Gregory (Gre) bt M Cairns 13-15, 15-6, 15-13, 15-8; Zarak Jahan (Pak) bt D Evans (Wales) 7-15, 15-7, 15-10, 15-13; Jansher Khan (Pak) bt D Ryan (Ire) 16-17, 15-13, 15-13, 15-11. Second round: R Eyles (Aus) bt G Ryding (Can) 15-9, 15-10, 15-8; A Hill (Aus) bt J Nicolle (Eng) 17-16, 15-10, 17-15. Women: First round: L Marsh (NZ) bt J Wilson (NZ) 9-3, 9-2, 9-5. C Owens (Aus) bt J Hickey (Aus) 9-1, 10-8, 9-5. M Martin (Aus) bt R Cooper (Aus) 9-1, 9-3, 9-3. S Horner (Eng) bt C Nitch (SA) 9-4, 9-2, 0-9, 9-7

TENNIS

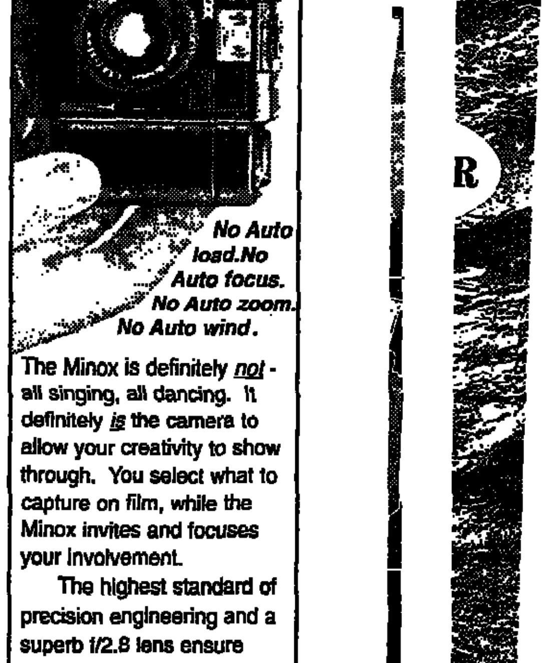
HILTON HEAD, South Carolina: Women's tournament: First round (US unless stated): A Fusai (Fr) bt K Rinaldi-Stunkel 6-4, 6-1, A Coetzer (SA) bt K Boogert (Holl) 4-6, 6-1, 6-3. S Farina (It) bt Z Garrison-Jackson 6-4, 6-0; I Spirlea (Rom) bt R Dragomir (Rom) 3-6, 6-4, 6-1; S Hack (Ger) bt M de Swardt (SA) 6-3, 6-4; M Pierce (Fr) bt G Fernandez 6-7, 6-3, 6-1.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: Maximum 24pts (No client with 24pts) 23pts: £1,306,937.00. 22pts: £1,432.50. 21pts: £360.25, 20pts: £17.60, 19pts: £12.65. Four draws £519.85. 10 homes £59.25, Five aways £69.30

VERNONS: Treble chance 23pts £119,645.24, 22 £423.05, 21 £175.05, 20 £8.25. Ten homes £76.20. Five aways. Void (stakes may be used in payment of clients' next entries)

ZETTERS: Treble chance 23pts £35,129.95, 22 £74.65, 21 £23.70, 20 £1.00. Top 10 points pool 17 £391.10, 16 £32.60. Easy six £33.60. Four draws £591.20. Eight homes £5.20. Four aways £6.00. Lucky numbers 35 9 2 5 16 3



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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

H.M. Land Registry
Lost certificates

It is proposed to issue a new certificate to replace the one described below that is stated to have been lost or destroyed. Anyone possessing the missing certificate or objecting to the issue of a new one should at once notify The Harrow District Land Registry of Lyon House, Lyon Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2EU.

Land Certificate Freehold Title Number NGL857443 - 22-24 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4BQ. Proprietors: Credit Suisse of 24 Bishopsgate and Swiss American Corporation Care of 24 Bishopsgate.

LEGAL NOTICES

Morocco Bound Travel Limited
IN LIQUIDATION
RULE 4.106 OF
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

TAKE NOTICE THAT I, David John Mason of Morton Thornton & Co, Torrington House, 47 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Herts AL1 1HD was appointed Liquidator of Morocco Bound Travel Limited by a resolution of a meeting of the company's creditors held on 27th March 1996.

DATED 27th day of March 1996.
David John Mason, Liquidator.

NUMBER OF COMPANY 2246480
COMDISCO DISASTER RECOVERY SERVICES (UK) LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO SECTION 175 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985 THAT:

(a) the Company has by special resolution dated 1st April 1996 approved a payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring its own shares by redemption;

(b) the amount of the permissible capital payment for the shares in question is £7,527,000;

(c) the directors' statutory declaration and the auditors' report required by Section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 are available for inspection at the registered office of the Company at 1 Centaurs Business Park, Grant Way, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 5QD;

(d) any creditor of the Company may at any time within five weeks immediately following the date of the resolution for payment out of capital apply to the court under Section 176 of the Companies Act 1985 for an order prohibiting the payment.

Dated this 2nd day of April 1996.

AC REALISATIONS (1996) LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP) FORMERLY AMBIANCE CLOTHING LIMITED
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

A meeting of the creditors of AC Realisations (1996) Limited is to be held at Price Waterhouse, No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL on Thursday 11 April 1996 at 10.30am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receivers and if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors.

Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and wish to attend should contact the receivers' office (telephone number 0171 939 5007) and ask for Andrew Fairnington.

Any creditors requiring a copy of the report (which is available free of charge) should write to AC Realisations (1996) Limited (in Administrative Receivership) c/o Price Waterhouse, No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL for the attention of Andrew Fairnington.

Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

A V Lomas,
Joint Administrative Receiver.
28 March 1996.

TALON CONSTRUCTION LIMITED (In Administrative Receivership)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

A meeting of the creditors of Talon Construction Limited is to be held at 10 Bricket Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3JX on 26 April 1996 at 10.00am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receivers and if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors.

Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and wish to attend should contact the receivers' office (telephone number 01727 844165) and ask for Jonathan Nield.

Any creditors requiring a copy of the report (which is available free of charge) should write to Price Waterhouse, 10 Bricket Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3JX quoting reference SRH/IRM/TCL.

Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

S R E Hancock,
Joint Administrative Receiver.
28 March 1996.

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 AND IN THE MATTER OF R.A DOVE LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at Baker Tilly, Iveco Ford House, Station Road, Watford, Herts, WD1 1TG on Monday the twenty second day of April 1996 at 2.30p.m for the purpose of dealing with Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

A full list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be examined free of charge at the offices of Baker Tilly, Iveco Ford House, Station Road, Watford, Herts, WD1 1TG between 10 am and 5 pm on the two business days prior to the date of this meeting.

Dated this 28 day of March 1996.
By Order of the Board.
R A Dove, Director.

FOUR STAR TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London, W1H 3FF on 10th April 1996 at 2.30pm for the purposes provided for in the Section 98 et seq.

A list of the names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Latham Crossley & Davis, 7 Kenrick Place, London, W1H 3FF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.

Dated this 1st April 1996.
Joseph Waskiewicz, Director.

DEDHAM VALE NURSERIES LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

A meeting of the creditors of Dedham Vale Nurseries Limited is to be held at No. 1 London Bridge, London, SE1 9QL on Wednesday 24 April 1996 at 10.15am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receivers and if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a creditors' committee.

Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

R J Rees,
Joint Administrative Receiver.
22 March 1996

N.U.C. LIMITED
Nature of Business: Computer Software Sales.
Administration Order Made: 4th March 1996.
Dated 27th March 1996
ALAN SIMON, Joint Administrator. Langley & Partners, Langley House, Park Road, East Finchley, London N2 8EX.

Notice of Administration Order
Team Management (Scotland) Limited

Registered Number - 02366834. Nature of Business - Project & Construction Management. Trade Classification - 23. Administration Order Made - 26 March 1996. Name Peter Norman Spratt, Gordon Iain Bennet - Joint administrators. Office holder numbers 6278 and 6708. Date 27 March 1996.

Notice of Administration Order
Team Management (Northern) Limited

Registered Number - 02362524. Nature of Business - Interior fitting and refurbishment. Trade Classification - 23. Administration Order Made - 26 March 1996. Name Peter Norman Spratt, Ian Clifford Powell - Joint administrators. Office holder numbers 6278 and 7852. Date 27 March 1996.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
AM MULTIGRAPHICS LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at 3.30 pm on Wednesday 17 April 1996, at Buchler Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act.

A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at Buchler Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on Monday 15 April 1996 or Tuesday 16 April 1996.

Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge a full statement of account and an informal proof of debt and unless attending in person or proxy at Buchler Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF, no later than 12.00 noon on Tuesday 16 April 1996. Secured creditors must, unless they surrender their security, give particulars of their security and its assessed value if they wish to vote at the Meeting.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Thomas D Rooney, Director.
Date: March 28, 1996.

IN THE LINCOLN COUNTY COURT No.1 OF 1996
IN THE MATTER OF CORNERSTONE ESTATE AGENCY LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)
and in the Matter of the Insolvency Act 1986

The Official Receiver has decided, under Section 136(5)(b) of The Insolvency Act 1986, not to summon first meetings of the Creditors and Contributories of the above-named company, there being little likelihood of a Liquidator, other than the Official Receiver, being appointed to administer the company and there being no possibility of any distribution being made to any class of creditor.

Creditors are advised that a copy of the Official Receiver's Report to Creditors and Proof of Debt Forms are available, on written application, enclosing SAE, to this office.

Dated 2nd April 1996.
F G O'Hare, Official Receiver.
Severns House, 20 Middle Pavement, Nottingham NG1 7EP.

The Insolvency Act 1986
Leicester County Court
No 14 of 1996
Roy Leachman - (In Bankruptcy)

In accordance with Rule 6.124 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 I, Malcolm Ellis Cork of Moore Stephens Booth White, 2 Nelson Street, Southend-On-Sea, Essex, SS1 1EF, give notice that I was appointed Trustee of the above on 8 March 1996.

Dated 9 March 1996.
Malcolm Ellis Cork, Trustee.

Notice of Administration Order
Nico Construction (Europe) Limited

Registered Number - 02639747. Nature of Business - Interior fitting and refurbishment. Trade Classification - 23. Administration Order Made - 26 March 1996. Name Peter Norman Spratt, Dipankar Mohan Ghosh - Joint Administrators. Office holder numbers 6278 and 5798. Date 27 March 1996.

Notice of Administration Order

Team Management (Southern) Limited. Registered Number - 02566992. Nature of Business - Project management & refurbishment. Trade Classification - 23. Administration Order Made - 26 March 1996. Name Peter Norman Spratt, Dipankar Mohan Ghosh - Joint administrators. Office holder numbers 6278 and 5798. Date 27 March 1996

Defending champion represents Horner's biggest test

By Colin McQuillan

SUZANNE HORNER, the British national champion from Wakefield, faces what may be the most significant match of her long career in the quarter-finals of the Leekes British Open squash championships in Cardiff tomorrow. She meets the defending champion, Michelle Martin, of Australia, and will gain confidence from having defeated her for the first time at the same stage of the Abshot Open last month.

Martin swept past Robyn Cooper, her young compatriot, 9-1, 9-3, 9-3 in just 25 minutes yesterday. while Horner, 33, lost control of the third game against Claire Nitch, the South African champion, and might have found herself struggling in a fifth game had she not resisted another attack at the end of the fourth to win 9-4, 9-2, 0-9, 9-7 in just under 40 minutes.

Horner has twice reached the final of the British Open, losing on each occasion to the defending champion — Susan Devoy in 1990 and Martin in 1993. If she can remove the champion earlier in the tournament, perhaps the equation can move her way this year. However, she would need to stay in control for two more rounds against opponents of the calibre of Sarah FitzGerald, Liz Irving and Cassandra Jackman, the second, third and fourth seeds, who are all in contention.

A sharp attack from Nitch certainly disconcerted Horner in their third game yesterday, revealing a lack of turning speed which suggested that there may not be many more British Open quarter-final opportunities coming her way. But an uncharacteristic wrong-footing cross-court kill helped Horner to regain service at 6-7 in the fourth game and a forehand service into the nick helped her to reach match point.

Horner is certainly playing the best all-round squash of her career and yesterday's display could presage a glorious finale.

In the men's second round yesterday, Anthony Hill's control of his temperament was severely tested under pressure from Jason Nicolle. The Australian needed to win two tie-breaks against his English opponent to reach the quarter-finals 17-16, 15-10, 17-15. The meeting with Rodney Eyles, his compatriot, could be the cue for fireworks.

Results, page 43

Underdogs turn League into tale of two cities

By Christopher Irvine

THE first meeting tonight between London Broncos and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) sums up the capital ambition of the Stones Super League, with both sides vying for a brief lead of the new rugby league competition.

There have been several key junctures in the battle to establish a London club as part of the capital's sporting scene since Fulham's flowering in 1980, but none quite as important as the one starting with Paris's visit to The Valley, the home of Charlton Athletic Football Club.

London's win at Halifax Blue Sox in the first round of matches last weekend was a timely one. As it came away from home, against opposition expected to win comfortably, it was arguably more of an eye-opener than PSG's defeat of Sheffield Eagles, on a tide of emotion in Paris.

The victories could not have been scripted better by the Rugby Football League as a launchpad for Super League. Interlopers with question marks about their credibility removed several of the doubts about their participation overnight. The opportunity to move onwards and upwards is contained in a not unduly taxing first month for either side.

Tony Currie, the London coach, said: "Our levels of fitness and competitiveness at Halifax were excellent, and I'd say we can get 30-40 per cent improvement all round. I'm confident of beating Paris; Bradford and Sheffield are 50-50 shots; Workington is an 80 per cent chance for us, and come the week's break for the Challenge Cup Final, I think you'll see us right up there."

Paris are being somewhat more cautious. "We must not get carried away by our first result. We still have a number of weaknesses in the team and have a great deal of work to do," Tas Baitieri, the PSG manager, said. "The Broncos will be extremely difficult, but our players are determined not to let Paris down."

As the two most delicate blooms in Super League, there is a definite need to nurture both clubs. London's various incarnations and voyages around the suburbs, before putting down roots at The Valley, were partly a result of neglect, but now, under the wing of the wealthy Brisbane Broncos organisation, a southern stronghold for the game is no longer a hopeless ambition.

Winning matches and winning over the London public are not viewed separately by Currie. "I know we get confused with London Monarchs [American football], but I don't care what people are calling us, as long as we're winning," he said. "When you're winning, you're popular."

Currie's arrival in February from the Brisbane parent club, where he was a specialist defensive coach, has ensured the weakest area last season has been tightened up. Of the latest batch of Australians, Gavin Allen's redoubtable presence in the front row is the biggest asset, although Currie is mindful of a sizeable and mobile Paris pack.

Adam Fogerty returns to the St Helens pack tomorrow for the derby with Wigan at Knowsley Road after a three-month lay-off, and Derek McVey, a recruit from Sydney Tigers, is called up into the second row. Tommy Martyn is set for a place on the substitutes' bench after a year's absence and a knee reconstruction.

Stuart Cummings, of Widnes, will referee the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final between Bradford Bulls and St Helens on April 27. Cummings, 35, a physical education teacher, took charge of the opening World Cup match and the final at Wembley last October.

DAVE SANDERSON/ALLSPORT

Cutting edge: Darren Shaw, left, Bernard Carroll and Darryl Pitt, of London Broncos, hope to carve their way through the Paris Saint-Germain defence at The Valley tonight

Derbyshire agree deal with Adams

CHRIS ADAMS has agreed to stay with Derbyshire at least until the end of the 1996 cricket season after reaching a compromise with the county. Adams, 25, a batsman, had originally requested to be released from his contract, which still has three years to run, but, after a winter of negotiations, including discussions with Dean Jones, the new captain, Adams will play this summer. In return, Derbyshire have agreed to review his contract at the end of the season.

Adams said: "I'm pleased that the matter is now resolved, leaving me free to concentrate fully on playing. I am sure the arrival of Dean Jones will be of benefit to everyone at the club, and that certainly includes me. Hopefully, if things work out, then the review at the end of the season will result in me staying with my native county."

☐ Wayne Larkins, 42, the former England batsman who was dismissed by Durham last season, is unlikely to accept an offer to continue his first-class career with Kent. Larkins is committed to playing Minor Counties cricket with Bedfordshire and with Richmond in the Durham League.

Signals celebrate

HOCKEY: Tim Wood, a distinguished forward from the higher realms of Services hockey, led the 11th Signal Regiment to a 4-3 victory over the School of Electrical and Aeronautical Engineering (SEAE) in the Army Cup final at Aldershot yesterday.

The match seemed all over after 23 minutes when the signalmen established a 4-0 lead, Barker scoring twice and James and Duffy adding to the score. SEAE made it 4-2 at half-time through Todd and Perrin, Lallament further reducing the arrears after an hour. The 42nd Survey Engineer Group won the minor units trophy with a 2-0 victory over the Army Training Regiment, Pirbright.

Pierce relishes return

TENNIS: Mary Pierce, playing in her first tournament in more than a month, beat Gigi Fernandez 6-7, 6-3, 6-1 in the first round of the Family Circle Cup tournament in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Pierce, of France, the No 8 seed, whose world ranking has slipped eight places to No 13 this year, made an inconsistent start against Fernandez, the American ranked No 67, but settled in the second set. Then, as her game became more confident, Fernandez folded. "I feel very motivated," Pierce said. "I'm hitting the ball well, though it will take a tournament or two to get back."

Shield success

CRICKET: South Australia survived a tense final 40 minutes to earn a draw with Western Australia in Adelaide yesterday and win the Sheffield Shield for the thirteenth time. Needing only to draw after finishing at the top of the Shield standings, South Australia were in trouble on the final day after resuming at 57 for two in their second innings, but Peter McIntyre and Shane George clung on grimly, frustrating the Western Australia bowlers as South Australia, set 343 to win outright, reached 208 for nine at the close.

Syed bows to injury

TABLE TENNIS: Matthew Syed, right, the England No 1, has withdrawn from the English Open championships at Kettering because he is suffering from a knee injury. The problem follows the hamstring trouble that has been troubling Syed for several weeks and means that England now has five of its leading players injured for the six-day event.

No charges for Wasps

ICE HOCKEY: Ross Lambert and Jonathan Weaver, the Durham Wasps players, who were arrested on March 9 at the Crowtree Leisure Centre when the play-off match against Humberside Hawks developed into a mass brawl, have been released without charge by Northumbria Police after returning to Southwick police station in Sunderland.

Edwards sets sights on round-the-world record

Edwards: ambitious

By Edward Gorman
Sailing Correspondent

TRACY EDWARDS, who skippered an all-woman crew in the 1989-90 Whitbread Round the World Race, yesterday announced plans to set a new record for the fastest non-stop circumnavigation of the globe, again with an all-female crew.

The Jules Verne Trophy is held by Sir Robin Knox-Johnston and Sir Peter Blake, who sailed round the world in 74 days, 22 hours and 17 minutes on the 92-foot catamaran, *ENZA New Zealand*, finishing in April 1994.

Edwards, 33, has now bought the Nigel Irens-designed boat herself for around £350,000 after having it surveyed in San Diego, where it has remained since the America's Cup, when it was used as a mascot for the New Zealand campaign. She is having the catamaran shipped to Florida and will then sail it back to Southampton in June for a refit. The boat is in reasonable condition, but will require new rigging, a new trampoline across the twin hulls, new sails and some interior strengthening work.

Edwards will then start a promotion and training campaign before launching a crack at the record early next year. Edwards will take a total crew of eight plus a camerawoman. The nucleus is expected to come from the crew of *Maiden* — her old Whitbread boat — with the remainder still to be selected.

This is a high-profile return to sailing for Edwards, who has had little involvement in yacht racing since her Whitbread campaign. In late 1991, she sustained a serious back injury when she was kicked by a horse. She was in hospital for a week and was unable to walk for six months, but has now fully recovered.

Yesterday, she said she was confident the catamaran could break the existing record. "We will be looking at 73 days," she said. "To go round nonstop with an all-female crew has never been done before and it's the sort of challenge I like."

♣♠ SHEEHAN on BRIDGE ♥♦

By Robert Sheehan
Bridge Correspondent

I HAVE just been reading a most entertaining book, *Educating Evelyn — Conversations on the Curious Laws of Rubber Bridge*, by Hugh ApSimon (Colin Smythe, £5.95). It is partly a critique of the 1993 rubber bridge laws, partly a highly readable description of how they work when a player commits an irregularity. It would be well worth any keen rubber bridge group having a copy.

What do you think about this auction? South deals:

W	N	E	S
—	—	1S	2C

East's One Spade is a "call out of rotation", as South was the dealer. South's bid of Two Clubs condones the call out of rotation, but what does South's Two Clubs mean? ApSimon demonstrates by use of a conversational device between the players that there is a conflict in the law. Part of law 28 states that South's call of Two Clubs "waives any penalty for the call out of rotation and the auction proceeds *as though that opponent had not called at that turn*".

In law 29, however, it states: "After a call out of rotation, offender's LHO [left-hand opponent] may . . . (a) make any legal call; if he chooses to do so, the call out of rotation *stands as if it were legal* . . . and the auction proceeds without penalty."

Thus, in this instance, we have the anomaly that, if South is applying law 28 (b), the auction proceeds as though East had not called; in that case, South's Two Clubs is an opening Two Clubs. However, if South is applying law 29 (a), the auction has started One Spade by East followed by an overcall of Two Clubs.

Besides pointing out this inconsistency, ApSimon produces a Solomonic way out of this dilemma. West, if he is feeling altruistic, should ask for a restatement of the auction, as he is entitled to do. Then, if South replies that he opened Two Clubs, it is clear that he is applying law 28 (b), but, if he says that the auction started One Spade by East, Two Clubs by South, then he is applying law 29 (a).

The Portland Club would be well advised to co-opt ApSimon onto their rule-making committee.

☐ For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Topalov's triumph

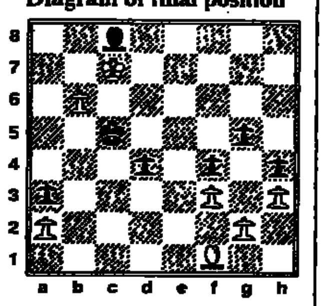
Veselin Topalov, the Bulgarian grandmaster, achieved a career best performance when he tied with Garry Kasparov for first prize in the Euwe Memorial tournament in Amsterdam which finished earlier this week. Topalov finished ahead of several of the world's top players including Anand, Short and Kramnik. He had to win this difficult endgame in the final round in order to keep step with the champion.

White: Veselin Topalov
Black: Jeroen Piket
Amsterdam, April 1996

Ruy Lopez

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	a6
4	Ba4	Nf6
5	0-0	Be7
6	Re1	b5
7	Bb3	d6
8	c3	0-0
9	h3	Bb7
10	d4	Re8
11	Nbd2	Bf8
12	d5	Ne7
13	c4	c6
14	Bc2	bxc4
15	dxc6	Nxc6
16	Nxc4	Nd4
17	Nxd4	exd4
18	Bg5	d5
19	Bxf6	Qxf6
20	e5	Qh6
21	Nd2	Bb4
22	Re2	Bxd2
23	Qxd2	Qxd2
24	Rxd2	Rxe5
25	b4	a5
26	b5	Rc8
27	Bd3	Kf8
28	Bf1	Ke7
29	Rxd4	Re4
30	Rd3	Kd6
31	Ra3	a4
32	Rb1	g6
33	f3	Rd4
34	Bd3	Kc5
35	Bf1	Kb6
36	Rb2	f5
37	Re3	Rd1
38	Kf2	Rdc1
39	Re6+	Ka5
40	Bd3	a3
41	Rb3	R8c3
42	Rxc3	Rxc3
43	Ke3	Rb3
44	Kd4	Rb2
45	Re2	f4
46	Kc5	Rxe2
47	Bxe2	g5
48	b6	h5
49	Bb5	d4
50	Bd3	h4
51	Bf1	Ba8
52	Bc4	Bb7
53	Bd3	Bc8
54	Be4	Ka6
55	Kc6	Ka5
56	Bd3	Kb4
57	Kc7	Kc5
58	Bf1	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
St Anton	55	260	good	powder	art	snow	0	3/4
(Excellent skiing everywhere; sunshine forecast)								
FRANCE								
Les Arcs	65	205	good	heavy	good	snow	2	3/4
(Fresh snow everywhere; good tree skiing at Peisey)								
Avoriaz	140	180	good	powder	fair	cloud	-7	3/4
(Another 10cm of new snow; good skiing in Avoriaz)								
Chamonix	30	250	good	powder	closed	cloud	3	2/4
(Superb skiing on and off piste; 30cm of fresh powder)								
Flaine	35	250	good	powder	fair	snow	-4	3/4
(Excellent skiing because of new snow)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	80	310	good	spring	good	fine	-4	3/4
(Generally very good skiing, some slush at bottom)								
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	50	50	good	varied	fair	snow	-5	3/4
(Much improved piste conditions with new snow)								
C Montana	5	210	good	powder	closed	fog	-3	3/4
(Cold and foggy; new snow and good skiing above 2,000 metres)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

THE TIMES
SNOWLINE
0891 333 568
24hr skiing information direct from resorts in:
AUSTRIA • FRANCE • SWITZERLAND
REST OF EUROPE • N. AMERICA/CANADA
ITALY • SPAIN/ANDORRA
ROMANIA/BULGARIA
or for a faxed report:
0891 662 258
Dial the above number from a telephone linked to a fax machine
WEATHERLINE
0891 333 462
Comprehensive outlook in the skiing areas for the week ahead
The Ski Club of Great Britain
118 Eaton Square, London SW1W 9AF
Calls cost 39p/min cheap rate, 49p/min at all other times
SKI CLUB

THE TIMES
SPORTS SERVICE
RACING
Commentary
Call 0891 500 123
Results
Call 0891 100 123
Calls cost 39p per min cheap rate.
49p per min at all other times

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

European Cup Winners' Cup
Semi-finals, first legs
Deportivo La Coruña v Paris Saint-Germain (8.0) ......
Feyenoord v Rapid Vienna ....

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Rushden and Diamonds v Dorchester.
ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v Dulwich, Carshalton v Harrow. Third division: Hertford v Aveley.
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Blackburn v Derby (at Preston, 7.0). Newcastle v Tranmere (at Gateshead, 8.0); Notts County v Manchester United (7.0)
BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Dundalk v Sligo (7.45)
ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Knowle v Shirley.
INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Rushall O v Hinckley Athletic
SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Goodyear under-16 Trophy: Semi-final replay: Bungay HS Suffolk v Larkmead, Oxon (at Bungay Town, 2.30). Durham Festival (from 9.30). Gravesham v Alfadale; Luton v Bishop Auckland, Wellingborough v Derwentside; Hull v Chester-le-Street, Leeds v Hartlepool, Carlisle v North Tyneside, Newcastle v Darlington.

RUGBY UNION

European Cup
Play-off
Glasgow District v North and Midlands (at Meggetland, 7.0) ....

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League
London Broncos v Paris Saint-Germain (7.30) ......

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: English national championships (Norwich Sport Village)
BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Newcastle v Manchester (8.0).
SNOOKER: British Open (Plymouth)
SPEEDWAY: Premier League (7.30): London v Ipswich; Middlesbrough v Sheffield
SQUASH: Leekes British Open (Cardiff)

THE TIMES
Free tickets to see the Broncos play tonight

JUST pick up the phone now and you could be watching one of the sporting events of the year: the first London Super League rugby home game. The London Broncos take on Paris Saint-Germain so the capital's kick-off match has an added international flavour.

The Times has 100 pairs of tickets to give away. All you have to do is call the number below and give your name and address.

The first 100 callers will get free tickets to the game at the Broncos' ground, Charlton Athletic football club, The Valley, in southeast London.

If you are not lucky enough to win free tickets you can get £5 off by presenting the voucher below.

HOW TO GET YOUR TICKETS
The first 100 readers to call the number below will be allocated a pair of tickets which will be ready for them to collect at the London Broncos' Complimentary Box, Floyd Road, Charlton, SE7 for tonight's game. Kick-off is at 7.30pm.

CALL 0171-481 3388
BETWEEN 9.30AM-3PM TODAY ONLY

Save £5 on London Broncos v Paris St. Germain
Produce this voucher at the turnstile when paying for one adult ticket. You will then receive £5 off the normal adult entry price of £10.
Valid only for London Broncos v Paris St. Germain on April 4, 1996. One voucher per person. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

EXON
- a. A native of Exeter
- b. Officer of Yeomen of the Guard
- c. An illiterate signature

BERGYLT
- a. A Finnish hangover
- b. A sea fish
- c. A geological fault

MALEBOLGE
- a. The eighth circle of Hell
- b. A beer belly
- c. A Nordic curse

MEACOCK
- a. A desexed rooster
- b. Timorous
- c. A bung in a rowing-boat

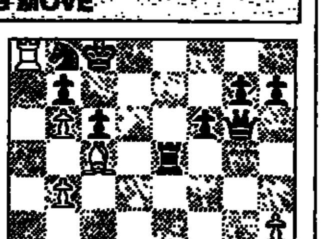
Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Alekhine — Reshevsky, Kemeri, 1937. With his control of the centre and pressure against g2, Black seems to be doing fine. However, Alekhine soon dispelled this illusion with a fine finish. Can you see it?

Solution on page 46



مكتبة من الاهل

[illegible]

Spread of global communications threatens to undermine local duty regimes

Backers can plot route to tax exile

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

THE opportunity to bet tax free on British horseracing, via Australia, is being made available to punters — and could cost the Government millions of pounds in lost revenue.

City Index, one of the leading spread betting firms, has helped to set up Capital Sports International in Canberra, which will take bets on big sporting events from around the globe without charging tax — and even save callers the cost of a long-distance call by accepting reverse charges.

The novel idea, which is within the law, could pose a threat to the Government's lucrative haul from betting on horses, which nets around £490 million a year for the Treasury. The punitive rate of off-course betting tax — 6.75 per cent — can mean the difference between profit and loss, especially for big punters, and any scheme which offers tax-free opportunities is likely to prove popular.

Sparke: radical views

Jonathan Sparke, managing director of City Index, which has a 60 per cent stake in the Australian venture, said yesterday: "It is perfectly legal to have a bet in Australia via England. You are entitled to pick up the telephone and dial Capital Sports International, open an account and have a bet on whatever they are dealing in, which will include big races in England. They are hoping to get in SIS pictures of British racing. That is not far away."

Sparke had hoped to introduce a toll-free telephone line but Customs and Excise insist — contrary to legal advice taken by City Index — that would amount to marketing and therefore be illegal. The current law prevents Sparke from marketing or advertising the Australian tax-free option in Britain.

"Betting is becoming more and more international and the British Government has not recognised the inevitable, which is that punters will look for the best tax rates as well as the best odds. The Government will inevitably lose revenue if it tries to ring-fence the current high rate of taxation and say no-one can bet outside it. People will use mobile telephones and the Internet and inter-active machines will be available soon."

"It intends to protect the uncompetitive rate of taxation and that is what is at fault. You cannot protect the indefensible and that is what they are trying to do."

Although a cut in betting duty would reduce the Government's take, Sparke shares the widely held view within racing that a rejuvenated Tote could help to make up the deficit. "The Tote needs to be at the forefront of betting with Tote Direct machines in every betting shop. The Tote should take a smaller percentage from the pools and needs to be much more dynamic and better marketed. The daily Jackpot should be at the best meeting. There needs to be a guaranteed minimum pool and there should be pool betting on big international races such as the Dubai World Cup, the Breeders' Cup, as well as sports events like the Olympic Games and the International Football Championships.

"I have been round the world and seen how pool betting works in South Africa, Hong Kong and Australia and by comparison the Tote in Britain is pitiful. A classic case of being left behind," Sparke added.

Sparke's radical views came as his company sponsored two races at a sun-blessed Ascot yesterday. Miroswaki easily justified odds-on favouritism to win the opening City Index Market Leaders Novices' Hurdle, and the improving Flying Instructor was well backed to win the City Index Spread Betting Handicap Hurdle and provide Paul Webber with his twelfth success in his first full season as a trainer.

While Webber earned the training plaudits, Richard Johnson received a glowing review from David Nicholson after his determination paid off on Newton Point in the Alpine Meadow Handicap Hurdle. "That was the ride of the season for kicking and pushing. You don't very often see anyone — Adrian Maguire, Richard Dunwoody or anybody — kick and push a horse for three miles. I think he only hit him twice behind the saddle. He was never on the bridle, even going to the first flight of hurdles. He was beaten all the way. It was brilliant."

JULIAN HERBERT

Destiny Calls blunders at the last fence, presenting the Daily Telegraph Novices' Handicap Chase to his closest challenger, Southampton

Scottish option for Encore Un Peu

ENCORE UN PEU, Superior Finish and Sir Peter Lely, second, third and fourth to Rough Quest in the Martell Grand National at Aintree last Saturday, are among 58 acceptors for the Stakis Casinos-sponsored Scottish equivalent at Ayr on April 20. Six others beaten at Aintree — Life Of A Lord, Party Politics, Captain Dibble, Chatam, Wylde Hide and Vicompt De Valmont — also figure.

Martin Pipe, the trainer of Encore Un Peu, has yet to finalise plans for the six horses he will leave in the race until the five-day stage on April 15. However, Jenny Pitman, who has Willsford, Garrison Savannah and Do Be Brief entered alongside Superior Finish, is likely to be strongly represented.

Pitman took last year's race with Willsford and her son and assistant, Mark, said yesterday: "We could be four-handed. Willsford is a definite, he's got a good chance again. Superior Finish, Garrison Savannah, who has had a problem with corns, and Do Be Brief are all possible runners."

Lo Stregone, the winner of the Greenalls Grand National Trial at Haydock in February but a late withdrawal from Aintree because of equine flu, may also take his chance at Ayr. "We'll see how he comes out of the virus," said a spokesman for trainer Tom Tate.

LEICESTER

THUNDERER

2.10 Polish Widow
2.40 Proud Image
3.10 Cuango
3.40 **CLIFTON FOX** (nap)
4.10 Marl
4.40 French Ginger
5.10 Papaha

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.40 **OCEAN PARK.**

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.10 **ROYAL CANASKA** (nap). 5.10 Papaha.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.10 BESCABY MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £4,159: 1m 8yd) (13 runners)

101 (3) CHINENSIS (Sheikh Mohammed) L Cumani 9-0 ... O Urbina –
102 (9) FAMILY MAN (Mrs J Hopper) J Fanshawe 9-0 ... D Harrison –
103 (11) 2- GLEN PARKER 164 (Angus Dundee Plc) H Cecil 9-0 ... NON-RUNNER
104 (4) 0- JOHN-T 246 (Dr J Hobby) J Dunlop 9-0 ... S Whitworth –
105 (8) LAZALI (Maktoum Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 9-0 ... R Hills –
106 (6) 02- MURHEB 223 (A Al Shafar) R Armstrong 9-0 ... R Price 92
107 (10) NORTH SONG (J Gosden) J Gosden 9-0 ... L Dettori –
108 (5) 6-0 ONLY 13 (R Hannon) R Hannon 9-0 ... R Perham 68
109 (2) QUIET ARCH (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 9-0 ... D Biggs –
110 (13) 32023- REINHARDT 192 (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 ... J Reid ●
111 (12) 3- ROYAL CANASKA 162 (Mrs J Sillon) D Loder 9-0 ... R Hughes 93
112 (1) 03- TAWAFEK 163 (H Al Maktoum) D Morley 9-0 ... W Carson 89
113 (7) 5- POLISH WIDOW 174 (A Oppenheimer) G Wragg 8-9 ... M Hills 92

BETTING: 5-2 Royal Canaska, 7-2 Reinhardt, 5-1 Polish Widow, 8-1 Murheb, North Song, 12-1 Chinensis, Family Man, Lazali, 16-1 others.

1995: DAUNT 9-0 L Dettori (7-2) J Gosden 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

MURHEB 1½l 2nd of 19 to Even Top in maiden at Newmarket (7f, good). REINHARDT 5l 3rd of 8 to Gentilhomme in maiden at Bath (1m 2f, good to firm). ROYAL CANASKA neck and 4l 3rd of 10 to Mawjud in maiden at Yarmouth (7f, firm). TAWAFEK 7½l 3rd of 12 to Lady Carla in maiden over course and distance (firm). POLISH WIDOW about 4½l 5th of 21 to Projection in maiden at Newmarket (6f, good to firm).
Selection: MURHEB

2.40 BILLESDON SELLING STAKES (Div I: £2,077: 7f 9yd) (12 runners)

201 (10) 414043 FIRST GOLD 34 (B,D,F,G,S) (K Standen) J Wharton 7-9-12 ... J Reid 82
202 (3) 3166-65 CICERONE 2 (C,D,F,G,S) (Dr C Ashpole) J L Harris 6-9-7 ... G Duffield 77
203 (11) 055444 EASTLEIGH 8 (B,D,G,S) (J Bigg) R Hollinshead 7-9-7 ... L Dettori 80
204 (12) 20/4000- FORGOTTEN DANCER 411 (G) (Mrs A Cappuccini) R Ingram 5-9-7 ... D O'Shea –
205 (7) 451130- PROUD IMAGE 222 (D,F,S) (L Fust) A Jarvis 4-9-7 ... J Tate 86
206 (5) 002560- CEDAR DANCER 231 (R Hodges) R Hodges 4-9-2 ... S Drowne (3) 71
207 (8) 6/02000- CLEBESCHAMPS 301 (G) (M Ellerby) M Ellerby 7-9-2 ... C Teague (5) 60
208 (4) 000-365 LA DAMA 17 (Miss A Bennett) A Mulholland 4-9-2 ... M McAndrew 85
209 (9) 5000/ LIZAPET 8J (S Green) P Pritchard 4-9-2 ... C Rutter –
210 (1) 40- COOL CAPER 203 (K Reed) A Foster 3-8-7 ... R Waterfield (7) 74
211 (2) 251-605 DOMETTES 33 (D,F) (Albion Investments) R Hannon 3-8-7 ... R Perham 94
212 (6) 445363- SILVER HARROW 171 (M Patel) A Newcombe 3-8-7 ... D R McCabe (3) ●

BETTING: 7-2 First Gold, 5-1 Proud Image, Eastleigh, 7-1 Silver Harrow, Domettes, 10-1 Cicerone, 12-1 others

1995: ROSEATE LODGE 9-9-7 T Ives (10-1) K Burke 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

FIRST GOLD neck and 6l 3rd of 9 to David James' Girl in seller at Southwell (AW, 1m). CICERONE 8l 5th of 13 to Maple Bay in apprentices' handicap at Nottingham (1m, good). EASTLEIGH about 3¾l 4th of 12 to Victory Team in handicap at Lingfield (AW, 1m). PROUD IMAGE best effort last season, beat Fro-Only Here in handicap at Lingfield (7f 140yd, good to soft). CEDAR DANCER 5¼l 6th to Rosa Bonheur in claimer at Salisbury (6f, good) on penultimate start. DOMETTES best effort last season beat Sharp Shuffle short-head in seller at Newmarket (7f, firm). SILVER HARROW 5¼l 3rd to Bees River in maiden at Folkestone (6f, good).
Selection: DOMETTES

3.10 KINGFISHER HANDICAP (£3,398: 1m 3f 183yd) (22 runners)

301 (15) 225560/ TURGENEV 82 (B,D,G,S) (Mrs B Trainer) R Bastiman 7-10-0 ... H Bastiman (5) –
302 (8) 0262/52- PENNINE WIND 418 (C Morley) S Dow 4-9-13 ... T Quinn –
303 (13) B14400P- MILAK 156 (J Abell) J L Harris 4-9-11 ... G Duffield 88
304 (5) 808226- FABILLION 154 (B Hodson) C Smith 4-9-10 ... C Rutter 85
305 (1) 323050- BRAYDON FOREST 190 (V) (Mrs J Melbourne) C Drew 4-9-9 ... W Ryan 92
306 (4) 4-04142 GREENWICH AGAIN 8 (D,F,G) (J Humphreys Ltd) T Mills 4-9-8 ... J Reid 98
307 (11) 02004/ WESTERN DYNASTY 912 (CD,F,G,S) (M Kentish) S Mellor 10-9-7 ... R Perham –
308 (22) 514/02- CLURUNEL NEWS 173 (CD,F,G) (Target Racing) A Streeter 6-9-6 ... C Teague (5) 88
309 (6) 02300-4 VICTORIA'S SECRET 7 (Mrs V Tuckerman) M Channon 4-9-5 ... R Hughes 95
310 (16) 355560- WORLD EXPRESS 13J (B,S) (World Express Ltd) B Millman 8-9-5 ... S Drowne (3) –
311 (20) 0600-21 HAYA YA KEFAAH 14 (D,G) (A Craddock) N Babbage 4-9-4 ... R French (7) 95
312 (12) 132526 CUANGO 14 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Barouche Stud Ltd) R Hollinshead 5-9-4 ... L Dettori ●
313 (8) 000/05-0 ROCK GROUP 34 (Endreco) J Pearce 4-9-3 ... G Bardwell 91
314 (14) 05/455-0 TIGER SHOOT 52 (C,D,G,S) (C Lines and Mason Brothers) D Thom 9-9-3 ... J Tate 85
315 (2) 0/8050- BELLA SEDONA 88J (E Rettell) Lady Herries 4-9-2 ... A Clark 94
316 (21) 4130-50 BRAVE SPY 19 (G) (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 5-8-13 ... D Biggs –
317 (7) 023003- TARAH MERAH 167 (L Mortimer Ltd) E Alston 5-8-9 ... K Fallon 87
318 (17) 00/060- ROYRACE 168 (A Evans) W Brisbourne 4-8-7 ... D Griffiths (5) –
319 (18) /023/03- FULL QUIVER 31J (V,D,F) (R Parker) Mrs B Waring 11-8-5 ... J F Egan 85
320 (19) 4130-50 PIP'S DREAM 84 (F) (P Aspell) M Ryan 5-8-3 ... W Carson 98
321 (10) 1/03000- SHY PADDY 8J (G) (Danebury Racing Ltd) K Cunningham-Brown 4-8-2 ... R Hills –
322 (3) /52000- JAMES IS SPECIAL 72J (D,G) (Diamond Eng) R Strange 8-7-11 ... C Adamson (5) –

BETTING: 5-1 Haya Ya Kefaah, 6-1 Cuango, 7-1 Victoria's Secret, 8-1 Greenwich Again, World Express, 10-1 Clurunel News, Fabillion, 12-1 Braydon Forest, 14-1 others.

1995: CLURUNEL NEWS 5-8-11 P Robinson (20-1) A Forbes 19 ran

FORM FOCUS

PENNINE WIND 4l 2nd of 8 to Tribal Peace in claiming handicap at Lingfield (AW, 1m 2f). GREENWICH AGAIN 1l 2nd of 6 to Ezzand in rated stakes at Lingfield (AW, 1m 2f). WESTERN DYNASTY 9l 4th of 12 to Safety In Numbers in handicap at Redcar (1m 6f, good to soft). CLURUNEL NEWS 1¼l 2nd of 8 to Zuzzaro in rated stakes at Catterick (1m 6f, good to firm). HAYA YA KEFAAH beat Outstayed Welcome 1¼l in 21-runner apprentice jockeys' handicap at Doncaster (1m 4f, good) with CUANGO (8lb better off) 10l 6th and ROCK GROUP (8lb better off) short-head 7th. CUANGO beat FABILLION 1l in 16-runner handicap at Nottingham (1m 6f, good to firm). Oct 95. FULL QUIVER 3¾l 4th (later promoted to third) of 20 to Steele's Wonder (later disqualified) in claiming handicap at Salisbury (1m 6f, good to soft). PIP'S DREAM 4¾l 3rd of 7 to Labibeh in handicap at Folkestone (1m 4f, good to firm), July 95.
Selection: CUANGO

RACELINE 0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS
LINGFIELD 101 201
LEICESTER 102 202
MUSSELB'GH 103 203
168
368

[illegible]

TRAINERS: D Loder, 6 winners from 13 runners, 46.2%; Mrs J Cecil, 6 from 18, 33.3%; H Cecil, 18 from 69, 26.1%; J Gosden, 13 from 67, 19.4%; J Dunlop, 20 from 106, 18.9%; L Cumani, 7 from 38, 18.4%; G Wragg, 6 from 34, 17.6%.

JOCKEYS: L Dettori, 33 winners from 157 rides, 21.0%; J Reid, 14 from 83, 16.9%; W Carson, 19 from 116, 16.4%; T Quinn, 16 from 134, 11.9%; K Fallon, 6 from 55, 10.9%; R Perham, 4 from 38, 10.5%.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating

3.40 GREYHOUND HANDICAP (£4,225: 1m 1f 218yd) (14 runners)

401 (8) 155040- CLIFTON FOX 159 (C,F,G) (P and S Partnership) J Glover 4-10-0 ... S D Williams 88
402 (3) 6/215- TOUCH A MILLION 266 (F) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 4-9-10 ... W Carson 85
403 (4) 345606- LOOKINGFORARAINBOW 223 (D,F,G) (B Saemtally) Bob Jones 8-9-6 ... M Wigham 87
404 (7) 54-1356 RIVAL BID 20J (CD,F,G,S) (G Wiltshire) Mrs N Macauley 8-9-0 ... J Reid 90
405 (2) 33/5100- ONEOFTHEOLDONES 27J (G) (R Baker) J Norton 4-8-13 ... K Fallon 86
406 (11) 40030-0 REMAADI SUN 13 (T Barker) M Usher 4-8-13 ... R Street 82
407 (5) 50/0043- QUILLWORK 36J (G Strawson) Mrs J Cecil 4-8-13 ... M Henry (5) 85
408 (14) 32-1511 OCEAN PARK 21 (D,G) (E Rettell) Lady Herries 5-8-13 ... A Clark ●
409 (9) 2/0814-1 SWINGING SIXTIES 10 (G,S) (K Higson) G L Moore 5-8-13 (5ex) ... S Whitworth 96
410 (13) 380400- LABUDD 6 (G) (Isaac, Clarke, Adams, Ingram) R Ingram 6-8-4 ... D O'Shea 89
411 (8) 03000-5 AMBIDEXTROUS 27J (V) (Mrs C McPhail) E Alston 4-8-3 ... J F Egan 90
412 (10) 063064 MARADATA 9 (G) (R Hollinshead) R Hollinshead 4-7-10 ... N Carlisle 94
413 (1) 6500/0-1 ESKIMO NEL 5 (D,G) (First Chance Racing) J Spearing 5-7-10 (5ex) ... D Wright (3) 98
414 (12) 060000 LADY ELIZABETH 29 (A Richards) K Cunningham-Brown 4-7-10 ... G Bardwell –

Long handicap: Maradata 7-8, Eskimo Nel 7-7, Lady Elizabeth 6-0

BETTING: 3-1 Ocean Park, 7-2 Eskimo Nel, 5-1 Touch A Million, Swinging Sixties, 6-1 Quillwork, 10-1 Rival Bid, 12-1 Clifton Fox, 16-1 others.

1995: BENFLEET 4-9-10 L Dettori (6-1) R Armstrong 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

CLIFTON FOX about 3l 4th of 23 to Stone Ridge in handicap at Newmarket (1m, good to firm) on penultimate start. TOUCH A MILLION beat Eskasara neck in 4-runner maiden at Newcastle (1m, firm) on penultimate start. RIVAL BID best effort last turf season, beat El Bailador ¾l in 14-runner handicap over course and distance (firm). QUILLWORK 8½l 3rd of 13 to Bint Zamayem in maiden at Newbury (1m 2f, good to soft). OCEAN PARK completed double, beat Able Choice 1½l in 9-runner handicap at Lingfield (AW, 1m 2f). SWINGING SIXTIES beat Bellas Gate Boy short-head in 15-runner handicap at Folkestone (1m 1f 149yd, good to soft). MARADATA ¾l 4th of 15 to Astral Weeks in handicap at Newcastle (1m 2f, good to soft). ESKIMO NEL beat Anchorena 4l in 18-runner handicap at Beverley (1m 2f, good).
Selection: ESKIMO NEL

4.10 LODDINGTON CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-O: £5,066: 5f 218yd) (7 runners)

501 (4) 211- L'AMI LOUIS 313 (D,F) (Oak Cliff Foals 1993) J Gosden 9-6 ... L Dettori 80
502 (6) 123360- ATRAF 175 (F) (H Al Maktoum) D Morley 9-0 ... R Hills 91
503 (5) 104- WISAM 252 (F) (M Sulaif) R Hannon 9-0 ... J Reid ●
504 (2) 2160- MARL 264 (G) (Sir Eric Parker) R Akehurst 8-11 ... T Quinn 94
505 (7) 02-4 SIHAFI 12 (H Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 8-10 ... W Carson 81
506 (3) 230335- BEAUTIFUL BALLAD 189 (G) (R Stewart) A Stewart 8-9 ... S Whitworth 92
507 (1) 103342- WHITTLE ROCK 186 (G) (Bay Horse Racing Synd) E Alston 8-9 ... K Fallon 83

BETTING: 2-1 L'Ami Louis, 9-4 Marl, 7-2 Wisam, 7-1 Atraf, 10-1 Beautiful Ballad, 12-1 Sihafi, 20-1 Whittle Rock.

1995: BAADERAH 8-9 L Dettori (7-4 fav) L Cumani 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

L'AMI LOUIS beat Obernas Boy head in conditions race at Kempton (6f, good to firm). ATRAF best effort last season, 3¼l 3rd of 15 to Creative Account in nursery at Newmarket (6f, good to firm). WISAM about 3l 4th of 6 to Polaris Flight in group II Richmond Stakes at Goodwood (6f, good). MARL best effort last season, beat Satellite Star 6l in conditions race at Newbury (5f, good). SIHAFI 9¼l 4th of 15 to Green Barries in maiden at Doncaster (6f, soft). BEAUTIFUL BALLAD 3¾l 3rd of 5 to Resounder in listed race at York (6f, good) on penultimate start. WHITTLE ROCK 7l 2nd to Hear The Music in conditions race at Haydock (5f, soft).
Selection: WISAM

4.40 BILLESDON SELLING STAKES (Div II: £2,077: 7f 9yd) (11 runners)

601 (5) 0-34410 DEEPLY VALE 20 (D,G,S) (K Higson) G L Moore 5-9-12 ... S Whitworth 97
602 (6) 30/0205- KUMMEL KING 215 (D,F,G) (Webb/Jones) E Alston 8-9-7 ... K Fallon 80
603 (4) 004320 MANABAR 41 (G) (Mrs A Polglase) M Polglase 4-9-7 ... W Carson 87
604 (9) 00-3300 PALACEGATE GOLD 10 (F,G,S) (R Hodges) R Hodges 7-9-7 ... R Hughes 60
605 (2) 440-000 ROCKVILLE PIKE 8 (V,S) (H Naqvi) S Dow 4-9-7 ... T Quinn ●
606 (8) 50/ SUPER HERO 517 (Lewis Medical Systems) A Newcombe 4-9-7 ... D Griffiths (5) –
607 (7) 6200- BOLD REVIVAL 198 (Mrs P Sly) Mrs P Sly 4-9-2 ... A Culhane 70
608 (10) 400-200 FRENCH GINGER 12 (Cromhall Stud Ptnrs) R Ingram 5-9-2 ... A Clark 85
609 (3) 64441-0 NOEPROB 10 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs P Bradshaw) R Hodges 6-9-2 ... S Drowne (3) 71
610 (1) 000-030 SCOTTISH PARK 58 (B,D,F,G,S) (Cleartherm Ltd) J L Harris 7-9-2 ... J F Egan 85
611 (11) 00- DAZZLING STAR 201 (J Davis) R Hannon 3-8-2 ... R Hills 81

BETTING: 3-1 Deeply Vale, 6-1 Kummel King, Scottish Park, 7-1 Rockville Pike, 8-1 Dazzling Star, Noeprob, French Ginger, 10-1 others.

1995: NO CORRESPONDING DIVISION

FORM FOCUS

DEEPLY VALE beat Desert Invader 1¾l in amateurs handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 6f) on penultimate start. KUMMEL KING about 3¾l 5th of 15 to Gymcrak Flyer in rated stakes at Haydock (1m, good). MANABAR 3l 2nd of 8 to Mr Teigh in rated stakes at Lingfield (AW, 1m) on penultimate start. SUPER HERO 9¼l 13th of 19 to Grandinare in maiden at Doncaster (7f, soft). BOLD REVIVAL best effort, 3l 2nd of 8 to Sharp 'n Smart in maiden auction at Folkestone (6f, firm). FRENCH GINGER best recent effort, short-head 2nd of 11 to Errant in maiden at Lingfield (AW, 1m). NOEPROB beat Zahran head in claiming handicap at Bath (1m, firm) on penultimate start. SCOTTISH PARK 2¾l 3rd of 8 to Masnun in claimer at Lingfield (AW, 1m 2f) on penultimate start. DAZZLING STAR 7½l 7th of 10 to The Man in maiden at Catterick (6f, good).
Selection: KUMMEL KING

5.10 KEYTHORPE MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O fillies: £4,159: 7f 9yd) (18 runners)

1 (17) BESWEETOME (C Watt) J Gosden 8-11 ... L Dettori –
2 (15) 6- CD SUPER TARGETING 348 (Circular Distributors Ltd) M Channon 8-11 ... R Hughes –
3 (4) 8- CHARLTON IMP 177 (R Hodges) R Hodges 8-11 ... S Drowne (3) –
4 (18) 3- DAWAWIN 167 (H Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 8-11 ... W Carson 88
5 (13) 0- DOMUSKY 175 (C Castle) A Mulholland 8-11 ... A Culhane –
6 (3) 4-5 ELEGANTISSIMA 42 (BF) (B Taker & D Wilson) S Dow 8-11 ... S Whitworth 56
7 (10) ENCHANTED GUEST (The Fillies Fanciers) P Harris 8-11 ... G Duffield –
8 (12) 020- EWAR SUNRISE 153 (A Richards) C Brittain 8-11 ... M Henry (5) 74
9 (9) 3- INNER CIRCLE 169 (M Tabor) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 ... J Reid 80
10 (11) LADY BENSON (B Benson) W Brisbourne 8-11 ... DOUBTFUL –
11 (2) 54- LITTLE BLACK DRESS 178 (G Howard-Spink) R Charlton 8-11 ... M Hills 71
12 (5) P50020- MIMOSA 184 (G Steinberg) S Dow 8-11 ... K Fallon 74
13 (8) 345- PAPAHA 174 (T Harris) H Cecil 8-11 ... W Ryan ●
14 (6) PREMIER CENSURE (W Gredley) J Fanshawe 8-11 ... D Harrison –
15 (7) REMEMBER STAR (Duckhaven Stud) A Newcombe 8-11 ... D R McCabe (3) –
16 (16) 62- ROYAL DIVERSION 164 (P Townsend) J Dunlop 8-11 ... T Quinn 78
17 (1) 5-0 YEZZA 36 (Mrs M Keogh) A Jarvis 8-11 ... J Tate 57
18 (14) ZILCLARE (Maktoum Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 8-11 ... R Hills –

BETTING: 9-4 Papaha, 5-2 Inner Circle, 5-1 Dawawin, 6-1 Little Black Dress, 8-1 Besweetome, 10-1 Royal Diversion, Ewar Sunrise, 12-1 others.

1995: CASK 8-11 L Dettori (7-1) J Gosden 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

CD SUPER TARGETING about 8¾l 6th of 8 to Kandavu in maiden auction at Newbury (5f, good). DAWAWIN 2¾l 3rd of 21 to Germano in maiden at Doncaster (7f, good to firm). EWAR SUNRISE 3l 2nd of 14 to Jezyah in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good) on penultimate start. INNER CIRCLE 4¼l 3rd to Tamhid in conditions race at Yarmouth (6f, good to firm). LITTLE BLACK DRESS 7¼l 4th to Dinera in maiden over course and distance (good). MIMOSA 1l 2nd of 7 to Trafalgar Lady in maiden at Goodwood (6f, soft) on penultimate start. PAPAHA about 5½l 5th of 8 to Bint Salsabil in group III Rockfel Stakes at Newmarket (7f, good to firm). ROYAL DIVERSION 2l 2nd to Tsarnista in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good) with MIMOSA 12l 11th.
Selection: PAPAHA (nap)

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ascot

Going: good to firm

1.55 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Miroswaki (R Dunwoody, 8-15 fav); 2, Major Nova (10-1); 3, My Old Chums (14-1). 8 ran. NR: King's Affair. 6l, ¾l. R Akehurst. Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £1.20, £1.40. DF: £3.10. Trio: £5.10. CSF: £5.80.

2.30 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Go Ballistic (M A Fitzgerald, 9-4 fav); 2, Jultara (7-1); 3, Maremma Gale (33-1). 13 ran. NR: Chiappucci. 15l, 1¾l. J O'Shea. Tote: £2.80; £1.60, £1.80, £12.40. DF: £8.60. Trio: £478.20. CSF: £16.82.

3.05 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, Southampton (A P McCoy, 11-2); 2, Destiny Calls (4-1); 3, Garrylough (11-4). 6 ran. 4l, 6l. G Balding. Tote: £5.60; £2.10, £2.20. DF: £8.60. CSF: £24.28.

3.35 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Flying Instructor (R Bellamy, 7-2); 2, Dreams End (15-2); 3, Suvez (20-1). Star Rage 9-4 fav. 9 ran. NR: High Mind. 3l, 2l. P Webber. Tote: £4.40; £1.60, £2.70, £4.20. DF: £31.10. Trio: £160.70. CSF: £28.77. Tricast: £428.25.

4.10 (3m hdle) 1, Newton Point (R Johnson, 7-2 fav); 2, Clifton Set (15-2); 3, Steel Moss (5-1). 11 ran. NR: Metal Oiseau. ¾l, 2½l. D Nicholson. Tote: £4.40; £1.90, £2.60, £2.40. DF: £15.10. Trio: £53.30. CSF: £28.58. Tricast: £120.28.

4.45 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, Mr Golightly (Mrs J Reed, 5-2); 2, A Windy Citizen (10-1); 3, Aman King (33-1). Proud Sun 5-4 fav (f). 10 ran. 2½l, 6l. Mrs S Cobden. Tote: £5.00; £1.50, £2.10, £4.70. DF: £23.30. Trio: £85.20. CSF: £25.79.

5.15 (2m 110yd flat) 1, Wade Road (Mr J Culloty, 6-1); 2, Walter's Dream (16-1); 3, The Proms (8-1). Not For Turning 9-2 jt-fav. 24 ran. 3l, ½l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £9.50; £3.10, £5.60, £2.80. DF: £53.90. Trio: £300.70. CSF: £102.21.

Jackpot: £3,483.90.
Placepot: £352.80. Quadpot: £114.20.

Hamilton Park

Going: good to soft

2.25 (1m 1f 36yd) 1, Field Of Vision (J Weaver, 7-2); 2, Heathyards Magic (50-1); 3, Flag Fen (16-1). Break The Rules 9-4 fav. 13 ran. 6l, 1½l. M Johnston. Tote: £4.10; £1.50, £19.20, £5.50. DF: £87.10. Trio: £112.10. CSF: £117.96.

[illegible]

Nap: ROYAL CANASKA
(2.10 Leicester)
Next best: Wisam
(4.10 Leicester)

2.55 (5f 4yd) 1, Northern Sal (J Carroll, Evens fav); 2, Tazibari (5-2); 3, Face It (14-1). 5 ran. Nk, 3l. J Berry. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £1.70. DF: £1.60. CSF: £3.76.

3.30 (6f 5yd) 1, Hobbs Choice (Dale Gibson, 8-1); 2, Gorelski (12-1); 3, Lucky Bea (9-2). Beldray Park 7-2 fav. 13 ran. ½l, 2l. G Moore. Tote: £18.20; £4.70, £2.60, £2.80. DF: £116.60. Trio: £221.60. CSF: £92.82. Tricast: £484.68.

4.00 (1m 65yd) 1, She's A Winner (K Darley, 4-1); 2, Classic Victory (8-1); 3, Rattle (9-2). Dragonjoy 2-1 fav. 7 ran. Hd, 6l. S Williams. Tote: £5.00; £1.90, £3.30. DF: £25.80. CSF: £32.47.

4.30 (1m 3f 16yd) 1, Calder King (R Lappin, 5-1); 2, Astral Weeks (9-2); 3, Mentul (3-1 fav). 8 ran. Hd, ¾l. J Eyre. Tote: £5.00; £1.10, £2.60, £1.90. DF: £45.80. CSF: £26.16. Tricast: £71.90.

5.00 (1m 4f 17yd) 1, Eurotwist (J Fortune, 8-1); 2, Me Cherokee (33-1); 3, Palace Of Gold (5-1). Thorntoun Estate 11-4 fav. 12 ran. ½l, hd. S Kettlewell. Tote: £8.60; £2.10, £8.20, £1.30. DF: £88.60. Trio: £209.50. CSF: £183.30. Tricast: £1,127.54. Exclusion (12-1) withdrawn, not under orders — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 5p in pound.

Placepot: £2,099.40. Quadpot: £484.90.

Ludlow

Going: good to firm

2.15 (2m hdle) 1, Cyrus The Great (G Bradley, 8-1); 2, Tremendisto (14-1); 3, Faustino (100-30). Court Nap 9-4 fav. 15 ran. NR: Silver Sumal. 3l, ¾l. K Bailey. Tote: £8.10; £2.20, £3.60, £1.80. DF: £33.40. Trio: £56.10. CSF: £98.75.

2.45 (2m ch) 1, Lake Of Loughrea (G Bradley, 2-1); 2, Oliver Duckett (25-1); 3, Golden Madjambo (7-2). Merlins Dream 5-4 fav. 6 ran. NR: Barton Santa, Star Of David. 5l, 1¾l. K Bailey. Tote: £3.00; £1.80, £4.10. DF: £35.60. CSF: £31.83.

3.20 (2m 4f ch) 1, Conti D'Estruval (B Clifford, 5-4 fav); 2, Ponymyswen (7-2); 3, Man of Mystery (8-1). 6 ran. NR: Larry's Lord. 3½l, 5l. G Balding. Tote: £2.70; £1.80, £2.20. DF: £6.00. CSF: £9.57.

3.50 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Belmore Cloud (O Burrows, 4-1 fav); 2, Bright November (5-1); 3, French Buck (12-1). 14 ran. 10l, 2½l. M Pipe. Tote: £3.70; £2.00, £1.80, £3.80. DF: £7.20. Trio: £50.40. CSF: £23.58. Tricast: £209.01.

4.20 (2m hdle) 1, Java Shrine (S McNeill, 7-1); 2, Kaizari (12-1); 3, Mutawali (8-1); 4, Lambson (8-1). George Lane 6-1 fav. 19 ran. NR: Edward Seymour. ½l, 2½l. J Tuck. Tote: £7.10; £1.70, £3.00, £2.00. DF: £46.90. Trio: £247.20. CSF: £86.61. Tricast: £652.82.

4.55 (3m ch) 1, Oaklands Word (Mr J Jukes, 2-1); 2, West Quay (6-4 fav); 3, Carrickmines (8-1). 8 ran. 5l, ½l. E Rhodes. Tote: £2.70; £1.20, £1.10, £1.80. DF: £2.30. CSF: £5.18.

5.25 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Jovial Man (D O'Sullivan, 3-1); 2, Zarloon (2-1 fav); 3, Danzig Island (4-1). 6 ran. 5l, 3l. R O'Sullivan. Tote: £3.10; £1.40, £2.10. DF: £2.40. CSF: £9.06.

Placepot: £102.10. Quadpot: £4.60.

MUSSELBURGH

THUNDERER

2.20 Ramsey Pride. 2.50 Kismetim. 3.20 To The Roof. 3.50 Poetry. 4.20 No Submission. 4.50 Carmosa.

GOING: GOOD — SIS
DRAW: 5F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.20 CARLYLE PLACE MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,541: 5f) (9 runners)

1 BOLERO BOY M W Easterby 8-7 ... K Darley 9
2 SUPER SAINT T Barron 8-7 ... J Fortune 8
3 3 SWING 7 P Evans 8-7 ... R Lappin 6
4 4 SILVER RAJ 8 W Kemp 8-3 ... J Carroll 5
5 5 RAMSEY PRIDE 5 C Fairhurst 8-2 ... N Kennedy 1
6 TRIBAL MISCHIEF D Moffatt 8-2 ... Darren Moffatt (3) 3
7 MIDYANS SONG J J O'Neill 8-0 ... Dale Gibson 2
8 SWEET EMMALINE W G M Turner 8-0 ... T Sprake 4
9 3 CAVIAR AND CANDY 10 D Cosgrove 7-12 ... P Fessey (5) 7

7-2 Swing, 9-2 Caviar And Candy, 5-1 Ramsey Pride, Sweet Emmaline, 6-1 Silver Raj, Bolero Boy, 8-1 others.

2.50 PINKIE HANDICAP (£2,719: 1m 4f 31yd) (13)

1 323- GOODBYE MILLIE 163 (V,CD,F,G,S) J Eyre 6-9-10 ... R Lappin 4
2 6-03 DRUMMER HICKS 9 (F,G,S) E Weymes 7-9-5 ... K Darley 1
3 443- KILERNAN 201 (F) T Barron 5-9-3 ... J Fortune 2
4 06-0 BALI TENDER 8J M W Easterby 5-9-1 ... Dale Gibson 12
5 560- KEEP BATTLING 75J (F) J Goldie 6-9-0 ... J Carroll 10
6 5660 KISMETIM 17 (D,G) D Chapman 6-9-0 ... D McKeown 3
7 4/0 PRINCESS TALLULAH 26 W G M Turner 5-8-9 ... T Sprake 7
8 100- LORD ADVOCATE 192 (B,CD,F,G) D Nolan 8-8-8 ... V Halliday 9
9 13-0 GOLD DESIRE 9 (BF,G,S) M Brittain 6-8-6 ... P Robinson 6
10 5/0- SCHOOL OF SCIENCE 75J R McKellar 6-8-5 ... T Williams 13
11 0510 INOVAR 17 (D,G) C Booth 6-8-4 ... N Kennedy 5
12 443- TANCRED MISCHIEF 229J W Barker 5-8-2 ... L Charnock 11
13 0/6- RAPID MOVER 40J (B,S) D Nolan 9-8-1 ... F Norton 8

5-2 Drummer Hicks, 9-2 Goodbye Millie, 5-1 Kilernan, 6-1 Tancred Mischief, 8-1 Bali Tender, Keep Battling, 10-1 others

3.20 BRUNTON HALL HANDICAP (£3,078: 5f) (17)

1 62-5 TO THE ROOF 13 P Harris 4-10-0 ... G Hind 3
2 /00- RIVER GARNOCK 295 (F) D Nicholls 4-9-12 ... M Richardson 1
3 2000 SOUTHERN DOMINION 21 (V,D,G) C Allen 4-9-8 ... C Webb (7) 12
4 050- SIX FOR LUCK 157 (CD,F) D Nolan 4-9-4 ... T Sprake 9
5 6133 TENOR 8 (D,G) D Nicholls 5-9-3 ... Alex Greaves 11
6 20-5 AMY LEIGH 14 (D,G) J Wilson 3-9-2 ... P Robinson 10
7 63-6 DOMICKSKY 10 (D,F,G,S) M Channon 8-9-0 ... K Darley 2
8 00-0 SERIOUS HURRY 42 (B,D,F,G) R McKellar 8-9-0 ... D McGaffin (7) 7
9 -333 MY CHERRYWELL 52 (B,CD,G,S) L Lloyd-James 6-8-13 ... T Williams 17
10 6355 KALAR 6 (B,D,F,G) D Chapman 7-8-13 ... Dale Gibson 16
11 1205 FEATHERSTONE LANE 21 (V,D,F,G) Miss L Siddall 5-8-13 ... D McKeown 4
12 114- LEADING PRINCESS 136 (B,D,F,G) Miss L Perratt 5-8-12 ... J Carroll 5
13 635- COOLOWEN FLASH 218 (D,F) J Eyre 5-8-11 ... R Lappin 13
14 400- BELLA COOLA 167 M Meade 4-8-7 ... V Slattery 8
15 00-4 SONDERISE 10 (D,G,S) N Tinkler 7-8-6 ... J Fortune 14
16 000- KENESHA 173 (B) D Nolan 6-8-6 ... L Charnock 6
17 640- CHINA HAND 203 M Wane 4-8-5 ... F Norton 15

6-1 Tenor, 7-1 Amy Leigh, 10-1 Coolowen Flash, To The Roof, Featherstone Lane, Kalar, 12-1 others.

3.50 STONEYBANK MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,493: 1m 3f 32yd) (6)

1 ANNA SOLEIL M Channon 9-0 ... A Gorman 6
2 06- BRIGHTER BYFAAH 131 N Graham 9-0 ... J Carroll 5
3 63-0 SEDBERGH 14 Mrs M Reveley 9-0 ... K Darley 1
4 SWAN HUNTER D Cosgrove 9-0 ... J Fortune 3
5 3- POETRY 171 M Tompkins 8-9 ... P Robinson 2
6 00- SYLVAN PRINCESS 185 C Allen 8-9 ... C Hodgson 4

7-4 Poetry, 5-2 Anna Soleil, 4-1 Sedbergh, 5-1 Brighter Byfaah, 12-1 others.

4.20 MAYFIELD SELLING HANDICAP (£2,327: 1m 16yd) (14)

1 00-0 ORTHORHOMBUS 10 (B,F,G) D Cosgrove 7-10-0 ... L Newton (5) 3
2 60-0 WARNING SHOT 10 (S) M Meade 4-9-13 ... V Slattery 10
3 000- DIET 154 (V,C,F,G,S) Miss L Perratt 10-9-10 ... J Carroll 1
4 0-00 MY HANDY MAN 9 R Allan 5-9-9 ... D McKeown 9
5 42-0 NORTHERN SPARK 8 (C,F,G) Miss L Perratt 8-9-7 ... J Fanning 14
6 00-0 BENJARONG 42 (C,D,F,G) R McKellar 4-9-1 ... T Sprake 6
7 340- PASH 142 (V,CD,S) C Fairhurst 4-9-1 ... N Kennedy 11
8 /60- RAINDEER QUEST 199 (F) J Eyre 4-8-13 ... R Lappin 13
9 000- SPIRITO LIBRO 175 (C,F) C Allen 3-8-12 ... C Hodgson 8
10 1200 NO SUBMISSION 6 (V,D,BF,G,S) D Chapman 10-8-11 ... K Darley 12
11 00-0 POLISH LADY 14 W Barker 3-8-10 ... L Charnock 4
12 020- THISONESFORALICE 75J (CD,F,S) J Goldie 8-8-9 ... P Fessey (5) 5
13 542- BEDAZZLE 199 M Brittain 5-8-7 ... P Robinson 7
14 0-00 SHEROOT 59 D Moffatt 4-8-6 ... Darren Moffatt (3) 2

3-1 No Submission, 7-2 Bedazzle, 9-2 Northern Spark, 5-1 Spirito Libro, 6-1 My Handy Man, 12-1 Orthorhombus, 14-1 others

4.50 STONEYHILL MAIDEN HANDICAP (£3,037: 7f 15yd) (14)

1 03-0 HARRY'S TREAT 41 (BF) J Eyre 4-9-10 ... D Pears (3) 8
2 3-02 BACKHANDER 3 M Wane 4-9-9 ... J Carroll 10
3 540- NKAPEN ROCKS 184 J Wilson 3-9-8 ... J Fortune 2
4 030- WIRE ACT 175 M Meade 3-9-4 ... V Slattery 5
5 0-02 DUNGEON PRINCESS 7 (BF) M Channon 3-9-3 ... A Gorman 13
6 400- SAMSUNG LOVELYLADY 257 E Weymes 4-9-3 ... D McKeown 3
7 /00- MONTE CAVO 217 M Brittain 5-9-2 ... P Robinson 4
8 630- TEEJAY'N'AITCH 26J J Goldie 4-9-0 ... P Fessey (5) 12
9 43-0 CARMOSA 12 D Nicholls 3-9-0 ... Alex Greaves 11
10 04-2 PRIDE OF KASHMIR 10 P Harris 3-8-13 ... G Hind 7
11 000- MISS IRON HEART 153 D Cosgrove 4-8-12 ... L Newton (5) 6
12 000- GENEROUS PRESENT 198 J Payne 3-8-12 ... M Tebbutt 14
13 050- MILL END LADY 174 M W Easterby 3-8-11 ... Dale Gibson 9
14 -532 EBEN NAAS 45 S Williams 3-8-7 ... K Darley 1

4-1 Pride Of Kashmir, 5-1 Dungeon Princess, 6-1 Wire Act, 7-1 Backhander, 8-1 Nkapen Rocks, Eben Naas, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Tompkins, 6 winners from 13 runners, 46.2%; S Williams, 4 from 10, 40.0%; M Channon, 7 from 19, 36.8%; N Tinkler, 6 from 19, 31.6%; P Evans, 3 from 14, 21.4%; R Allan, 5 from 30, 16.7%.

JOCKEYS: P Robinson, 5 winners from 13 rides, 38.5%; K Darley, 33 from 153, 21.6%; J Carroll, 25 from 123, 20.3%; P J Fessey, 3 from 23, 13%; D Pears, 4 from 33, 12.1%; J Fortune, 12 from 105, 11.4%.

☐ Bernard Llewellyn, the trainer, and the jockey, Tyrone Williams, are to contest the demotion of Backview from first place to third at Wolverhampton on Tuesday.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

2.00 Bilko. 2.30 Kingsinger. 3.00 Polly Peculiar. 3.30 Sue Me. 4.00 Prince Kinsky. 4.30 Invocation.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.00 **BLUEBERRY FIELDS** (nap)

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (TURF COURSE); STANDARD (ALL-WEATHER)
DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST — SIS

2.00 EBF TANDRIDGE MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,147: 5f) (5 runners)

1 (5) BILKO G Lewis 9-0 ... Pat Eddery –
2 (3) IMPULSION R Hannon 9-0 ... Dane O'Neill (5) –
3 (4) 2 IRISH FICTION 7 (BF) M Channon 9-0 ... J Weaver –
4 (1) 4 MOLLY MUSIC 10 G Margarson 8-9 ... P Bloomfield –
5 (2) SALOME N Graham 8-9 ... A McGlone –

11-10 Irish Fiction, 11-4 Bilko, 4-1 Impulsion, 6-1 Salome, 16-1 Molly Music.

2.30 BAKERS LANE CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,298: 5f) (3)

1 (3) 1 KINGSINGER 12 (D,S) M Channon 9-2 ... J Weaver –
2 (2) 1 IECHYD-DA 7 (D,S) M Bell 8-11 ... M Fenton –
3 (1) SALTY BEHAVIOUR R Hannon 8-11 ... Dane O'Neill (5) –

11-10 Kingsinger, 7-4 Iechyd-Da, 7-2 Salty Behaviour.

3.00 WEATHERBYS BULLETIN MAGAZINE HANDICAP (All-weather: £3,316: 1m 2f) (14)

1 (7) 1308 ROBELLION 21 (V,CD,F) D Arbuthnot 5-10-0 ... R Cochrane 95
2 (6) 0511 ERRANT 8 (CD,G) D Cosgrove 4-9-10 (5ex) ... J Quinn 98
3 (3) -003 WET PATCH 10 (CD,F,G) R Hannon 4-9-8 ... Dane O'Neill (5) 98
4 (11) 600- KING OF BABYLON 40J Lady Herries 4-9-5 ... A McGlone 93
5 (14) 2113 ZAHID 19 (CD,G) K Burke 5-9-4 ... T Ashley (7) 95
6 (2) 0/0- PREMIER LEAGUE 220J (D,G,S) J Long 6-9-3 ... T Field (7) –
7 (5) 00-5 DANCE KING 20J (F) R Harris 4-9-1 ... V Smith 94
8 (1) 430- JARVEY 23J P Eccles 4-8-13 ... N Adams –
9 (12) 4156 SARUM 6 (C,F,G) C Wildman 10-8-12 ... F Lynch (5) 91
10 (4) 4325 HATTA SUNSHINE 6 (CD,G) A Moore 6-8-12 ... A Whelan (3) 90
11 (9) 21-0 SHE SAID NO 19 (CD,G) Lord Huntingdon 4-8-12 ... J Weaver 80
12 (13) 150- POLLY PECULIAR 117 (CD,G,S) B Smart 5-8-4 ... J Stack (3) ●
13 (8) /0-0 FOREST STAR 20J (B,D,F) R Akehurst 7-7-13 ... S Sanders –
14 (10) 0548 THORNIWAMA 6 (B) J Bridger 5-7-10 ... M Baird (5) 98

4-1 Robellion, 9-2 Errant, 6-1 Zahid, 8-1 Wet Patch, 10-1 King Of Babylon, She Said No, Hatta Sunshine, 12-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Leicester: 3.10 Turgenev, World Express 4.40 Rockville Pike. Lingfield Park: 3.30 Golden Pound.

3.30 FELCOURT HANDICAP (£6,033: 7f) (16)

1 (4) 214- STORM BID 295 (D,G) E Dunlop 4-10-0 ... J Stack (3) 86
2 (15) 160- CHRISTMAS KISS 188 (F) R Hannon 4-9-8 ... Dane O'Neill (5) 85
3 (1) 0-00 ERTLON 38 (C,D,F,G) C Brittain 6-9-6 ... P McCabe (3) 91
4 (8) 03-5 TILER 13 (D,BF,F,S) M Johnston 4-9-5 ... J Weaver 92
5 (9) 00-0 CHAMPAGNE GRANDY 11 (D,F,G,S) M Channon 6-9-3 ... P P Murphy (5) 93
6 (16) 214- BE WARNED 132 (D,F,G) N Callaghan 5-8-13 ... A Eddery (7) 96
7 (6) 2224 GOLDEN POUND 13 (B) Miss G Kelleway 4-8-10 ... F Lynch (5) 94
8 (3) P-01 SCHARNHORST 7 (D,F,G,S) S Dow 4-8-10 (6ex) ... A Daly (5) 93
9 (13) 001- JIBEREEN 177 (D,G,S) G Lewis 4-8-9 ... A Whelan (3) 90
10 (5) 433- MOKUTI 302 G Wragg 4-8-8 ... W Woods 90
11 (2) 4-16 SHARP 'N SMART 37 (CD,BF,F,G) B Smart 4-8-8 ... R Cochrane 98
12 (14) 00-0 SUE ME 9 (S) W Muir 4-8-7 ... Jean-Pierre Lopez 93
13 (11) 050- STOLEN MELODY 168 (F) S Dow 4-8-7 ... S Sanders 87
14 (12) 100- DAWALIB 201 (D,F,G) D Haydn Jones 6-8-5 ... A Mackay 89
15 (7) 00-0 HELIOS 54 (CD,F,S) N Walker 8-8-3 ... G Carter ●
16 (10) 130- PROUD MONK 140 (D,S) G L Moore 3-7-13 ... J Quinn 95

5-1 Storm Bid, 6-1 Tiler, 7-1 Christmas Kiss, 15-2 Scharnhorst, 8-1 Mokuti, Be Warned, 10-1 others

4.00 HEVER MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (All-weather: 3-Y-O: £3,016: 1m 2f) (8)

1 (4) 4-05 AUTOBABBLE 10 (B) R Hannon 9-0 ... Dane O'Neill (5) 93
2 (1) 0- BRIGHT ECLIPSE 183 J Hills 9-0 ... R Cochrane –
3 (7) 80 OLD GOLD N TAN 10 J Poulton 9-0 ... P McCabe (3) 56
4 (2) 00- PRINCE KINSKY 175 Lord Huntingdon 9-0 ... J Weaver ●
5 (6) 83-6 YELLOW DRAGON 49 B Pearce 9-0 ... J Quinn 76
6 (8) 0-4 BLUEBERRY FIELDS 63 C Wall 8-9 ... W Woods 88
7 (5) PROMPT R Charlton 8-9 ... S Sanders –
8 (3) 0-6 SHEILAS DREAM 8 R Simpson 8-9 ... G Carter 71

6-4 Prompt, 7-2 Prince Kinsky, 9-2 Blueberry Fields, 5-1 Autobabble, 8-1 Bright Eclipse, 10-1 others.

4.30 LINGFIELD APRIL SPRINT HANDICAP (All-weather: £3,662: 6f) (6)

1 (5) 1213 OUR SHADEE 12 (V,CD,F,G) K Ivory 6-9-10 ... C Scally (7) 98
2 (2) 6264 INVOCATION 12 (CD,F,G) A Moore 9-9-10 ... A Whelan (3) 97
3 (1) 3241 THE INSTITUTE BOY 12 (CD,G) Miss J Craze 6-9-8 ... A McGlone ●
4 (6) 2015 MAPLE BURL 7 (CD,G) S Dow 3-8-12 ... A Daly (5) 94
5 (3) 521- SCISSOR RIDGE 112 (B,C,G) J Bridger 4-8-7 ... J Quinn 94
6 (4) 00-0 TITANIUM HONDA 10 (G) D O'Brien 5-8-4 ... Dane O'Neill (5) 81

11-4 The Institute Boy, 3-1 Maple Burl, 7-2 Our Shadee, 4-1 Invocation, 5-1 Scissor Ridge, 12-1 Titanium Honda

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: G Wragg, 11 winners from 35 runners, 31.4%; N Walker, 11 from 41, 26.8%; Lord Huntingdon, 47 from 217, 21.7%; Lady Herries, 6 from 28, 21.4%; M Bell, 13 from 73, 17.8%; M Johnston, 42 from 248, 16.9%.

JOCKEYS: J Weaver, 69 from 344, 20.1%; R Cochrane, 72 from 404, 17.8%; T Quinn, 61 from 372, 16.4%; W Woods, 27 from 187, 14.4%; P McCabe, 13 from 106, 12.3%; G Carter, 23 from 199, 11.6%.

Money must not spoil story of the Blues

BRYANT'S
EYE

The evocative tones of John Snagge will be missing from the Boat Race this year — but his legacy will be there, spinning on the towpath. In a week when a dispute over "cheque-book rowing" at Cambridge has surfaced again, it is worth remembering that money in the race is such a touchy subject that even Snagge once got caught up in a row over it.

While he was the BBC's Boat Race commentator, Snagge, who died last week, aged 91, donated the gold sovereign that is tossed each year to see which president will have choice of station. It is said that Snagge spent 18 months searching for a sovereign dated 1829, the year of the first Oxford and Cambridge race at Henley.

The gesture, unbelievably, caused a problem when Snagge suggested that the winning boat club should hold the coin until the following year. The Amateur Rowing Association said the amateur status of the race would be jeopardised if the crews were competing for money.

This preposterous objection is the reason the losing crew now takes custody of the coin each year. Apparently, it is within the amateur rules for two highly-trained crews to compete to lose money. Eccentric — but that's the Boat Race.

Of all the sporting events, this annual Oxford and Cambridge clash on the Thames is perhaps the most bizarre. It is as much a tribal rite as a sport. The course, with its huge loops and fierce tides battling with wind, current and flotsam, is no use for rowing with finesse, and usually turns the race into a procession.

But the history is long, and the audience is vast and partisan. Saturday's race will be watched by a worldwide television audience of 400 million in 160 countries, and they will be out in their thousands along the towpath between Putney and Mortlake — picnickers and drinkers, who have no connection with either university or with rowing — all shouting for dark or light blue.

What attracts them is the occasion, the spectacle, the history, the tradition. Which is why the suggestion that the race should "go professional" is completely crazy. The Boat Race has been characterised by arguments and allegations of dirty tricks almost from its launch. This year's dispute over "cheque-book rowing" centres on bursaries introduced by Cambridge two years ago. The scheme was announced in a notice in *The Times* on May 20, 1994, which read: "Cambridge University Boat Club has set up a memorial bursary in honour of Alf Twinn, the former university boatman. Its purpose is to assist oarsmen who are unable for financial reasons to take up a place at the university."

This week, Dan Topolski, the guru behind much of Oxford's rowing success in the Seventies and Eighties, and coach again this year, has added to the acrimony, saying that he hopes Oxford does not follow Cambridge down the route of the bursary. Topolski described the $5,000 paid this year to Nick Burfitt, a Briton, and Ethan Eyer, an American, as "an irritant because it's taking the Boat Race perhaps in a direction it shouldn't go. I don't think it is really the Boat Race's job — or the boat clubs' — to pay money to athletes to come along."

Money has, of course, increasingly exercised its corrupting influence over the Boat Race. The boats now cost ten times as many pounds as the crews weigh and sponsorship, notably from Beefeater Gin, has been necessary for survival. The inconvenience of having to select the crews from young undergraduates has been overcome with increasing ingenuity: in 1992 the cox in the Cambridge boat, Andrew Probert, was a 38-year-old student, and Donald MacDonald, 31, captained the Oxford boat, *True Blue*, in 1987.

The mutiny of that year, being reconstructed on film, was the walkout on Oxford of five American rowers who had locked horns with Topolski. Americans, Australians, Germans, Yugoslavs — champion rowers from all over the globe have been lured to Oxford and Cambridge by the magic of the Boat Race. But, if they are to be enticed primarily by money, the event will be finished.

The secret of this race is its history and its strong bond with the rapidly-fading ideals of amateurism. Its image is of young, intelligent men dedicating themselves to this traditional contest — and giving everything for the honour of their universities. If those universities are going to sign up professional itinerant rowers, whose skills are for hire to the highest bidder, then the boat clubs might as well pack up.

Far too much professional sport has abandoned any attempt to field representative home-grown talent, and so lost the most obvious link with its home territory and local supporters. Rag-tag crews of foreign sportsmen are brought in to play for teams purporting to represent cities, towns and counties. Schools and universities may well be the last places where we see truly representative sporting teams. If the oarsmen in the Oxford and Cambridge boats are not students representing their universities, then what is the point of the race?

Of course, the training is tough. But that is nothing new. Being a student sportsman was always a juggling act. The rowers may have to sacrifice up to five hours a day during the peak months of training. But fitting in the rest of their lives can be done. Last year, an Oxford University task force chaired by Dr Richard Cooper, of the university's sports development office, found that degrees won by sportsmen outclassed the average. That is good news and should encourage college admissions tutors to have no fears when it comes to choosing dedicated sportsmen as students.

But the men and women in the boats must be students first. And the race of which they are part must realise that its enduring compulsion is rooted in its tradition and not in proving that it is the best professional rowing contest in the world.

When John Snagge tracked down the sovereign that is spun before every Boat Race, he bought it for its date, for its little link with history — not for its gold.

JOHN BRYANT

History spurs Cambridge's Olympian

John Goodbody **talks to Nick Burfitt, who has sacrificed sleep and studies to take part in the Boat Race**

The money provided by one of the controversial Alf Twinn bursaries has enabled one Cambridge oarsman, Nick Burfitt, to pursue his ambition of taking part in the Boat Race on Saturday, despite the strenuous demands of his academic career.

Aged 29 and an Olympic finalist in Barcelona in 1992, he might well have decided that the demands of rowing were too much for someone in his penultimate year of medical studies. However, Burfitt still felt that his CV was not complete without the gloss and experience that come from participating in an event that, for much of the public and the media, remains the best-known race in rowing.

"There is a lot of history in this event," Burfitt said. "I had reached a high level, but I still wanted to be involved in the race. I simply thought it would be a shame not to have done it."

He understands the irritation felt by many oarsmen about the reputation of the Boat Race in the public's mind. "The squads do not always produce the best university eight, let alone the best in the country," Burfitt said, "but there is so much coverage by the media, so much hype.

Burfitt, a finalist at Barcelona, could not resist the chance to take part in the most famous race in rowing. Photograph: Martin Beddall

"Some people see the crews coming down to the Tideway and appearing as if they own the place, with their 'washing down' everyone when they are out on the water. However, now I am seeing it from the other side, it is great, and if some of the critics crossed the tracks, they would not deny it."

Few British oarsmen in the 167-year history of the race have had more extensive experience of rowing. An international from 1987 to 1992, Burfitt was a member of crews that won the Grand Challenge Cup and Prince Philip Challenge Cup at Henley. Between 1990 and 1992, he interrupted his medical studies to concentrate on the Barcelona Olympics.

Based at Leander and helped by a Sports Aid Foundation grant, Burfitt was part of a national squad that was training up to 14 times a week. The oarsmen at the two universities are expected to maintain their programme of studies, but still often manage 11 work-outs a week.

Burfitt has had to arrange time off on three afternoons a week from Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge over the winter and, in the final build-up to the event, has had three weeks away from the requirements of medicine.

He has found the training similar to that endured by the national squad, although he says that, for the 4¼ miles of the race itself, it is important to judge the pace correctly. "The tempo is slightly less than for an international 2,000 metres race," he said.

> 'I reached a high level but I wanted to be involved'

Burfitt is impressed with the professionalism of the Cambridge squad. "It is very well organised and the crew is focused," he said. "The national squad often has people competing against each other for places."

There have not always been pleasant conditions in the chills of the Fens over the winter. One day, it was so cold that when water splashed into the boat, it started freezing. However, Burfitt's presence has given solidity to a crew that is relatively inexperienced. Although it contains five members of the Goldie eight from last year, only one Blue remains from the senior crew that completed a hat-trick of victories for Cambridge.

John Carver, the president, said: "When the crew has been selected it is very valuable to have people who can contribute their technical knowledge. Everyone has their own signature to the rowing stroke with their distinct style." Someone with Burfitt's knowledge can add to, and often reinforce from inside the boat, the observations of the coach, Robin Williams.

Burfitt, who is on a one-year bursary at Cambridge, was encouragingly well received when he applied to Emmanuel. "It is seen from your performance in rowing that you can push yourself at something," he said. "This drive is respected and it is believed that it will cross over into one's later career."

Given academic pressures, he would probably be unable to row next year, but, in any case, he has no desire to do so. "I don't want to spend the year getting up at six o'clock," he said. "There are other things to do at Cambridge."

Still, over the winter, he has been stirred to rise consistently early with the rest of the squad. His principal concern is that he will be so nervous on Saturday that he will not revel in the occasion. "I want to relax and enjoy every moment," he said. "I also believe you can perform much better when you are relaxed."

Coaches take opposite paths to prepare crews

By Mike Rosewell, Rowing Correspondent

THE Oxford and Cambridge coaches followed diametrically opposed approaches to their only outings yesterday. Robin Williams and Harry Mahon, of Cambridge, upped the tempo, starting their trip with power water work, with four of the crew rowing while the others urged them on "just to remind them what work is about", Williams said.

After the long warm-up, onlookers were finally treated to a view of the Light Blues in race mode in two races, one of three minutes and one of two minutes, against Goldie, their reserve crew.

In the three-minute piece, taken from above Fulham, from a running start, Cambridge — on Middlesex — finished one length ahead, consistently taking one third of a length in each minute, with the rate steadying from 40½ to 35½. In the two-minute piece, from a standing start along the Chiswick strait, Cambridge initially struck a rate of 44, never went below 38, and achieved the same one-length advantage in the shorter duration.

It was smooth and economical rowing with the boat running well between strokes, although Williams said: "They were a bit tense in the first one but better in the second. They need a bit more work to make it tight and tidy for Saturday."

Oxford's coaches, their tails up after their crew's efforts against their international Old Blues on Tuesday, contented themselves with a quiet paddle. The instruction from the launch was coming from Dan Topolski, Oxford's director of coaching, who joined his crew, with Penny Chuter, Oxford's chief coach, stepping into the background.

Chuter clearly believes her crew is faster than last year. "If we row well and find our rhythm, we will be difficult to beat. It will be a close match. Cambridge are very tenacious guys," she said.

TODAY'S OUTINGS: Oxford, 9am, 12.30pm (umpire rehearsal) and 4pm. Cambridge, 10am, 1.30pm (umpire rehearsal)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44

EXON

(b) The ordinary title of the four officers of the Yeomen of the Royal Guard, styled corporals in their commissions, and ranking below the Ensign. Apparently intended to express the pronunciation of the French *exempt*. "The Court gave Moreland [Cromwell's express] two Exons of Ye Guard to conduct him in safety."

BERGYLT

(b) The name of two fishes. The Black Goby, in Shetland and elsewhere, but also the Norwegian haddock or Sea Perch (*Sebastes Norvegicus*), an arctic fish, found occasionally on the coasts of Scotland. It may be connected with the Old Norse *berg* a rock. "Central Fish Market: A large supply of fish: bergylt 4d per lb." That was in 1883.

MALEBOLGE

(a) The name givven by Dante to his eighth circle in Hell, consisting of ten rock-bound concentric circles, designated "bolge". Used in transferred sense, mainly with allusion either to the pool of filth in the second *bolgia* (Canto xviii), or to the boiling pitch in the fifth *bolgia* (Canto xxi). *Scotsman*, 1894: "The channels that feed this devouring malebolge are the newspapers and telegraph offices."

MEACOCK

(b) An effeminate person, a coward or weakling. Of obscure origin, perhaps originally the name of some bird. The suggestion that it is from *meek* is untenable. "For my part I will no more be such a meacock/ To deal with the plumes of a Hyde-Park peacock."

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IN ASIA, THEY TORTURE ORANG-UTANS WITH FEATHER DUVETS, COLOUR TV & HAUTE CUISINE.

Every year hundreds of baby orang-utans are smuggled out of the forests of Borneo and sold as pets. Some, like Di Di who's featured in BBC1's documentary at 5.50pm tomorrow night, are even reared as 'substitute' children.

But a life that might seem luxurious to us, is a prolonged form of torture to a baby orang-utan who can't wait to get back into the wild and do what comes naturally.

As they develop, they become territorial, aggressive and unmanageable. And that's when they're abandoned. (Orang-utans have been spotted wandering aimlessly among the traffic of Asian cities.)

The World Society for the Protection of Animals gives support to many organisations for work like returning orang-utans to the wild. To do this we are in desperate need of your help.

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RADIO CHOICE

Where all is not well

The Two Sisters. *Radio 4, 2.00pm.*

Ding, dong, bell, something's in the well. This is one fact about David Ashton's black comedy that I can safely divulge. There is something else that I think I can usefully disclose about this deliciously gruesome play without giving the game away. When the curtain rises, there is only one "something" down the well. Another one is about to keep it company when the curtain finally — and bloodcurdlingly — falls. The eponymous sisters, as nutty as a couple of fruit cakes, are played by Joan Sims and Barbara Jefford. In vain, I have tried to think of a single line they speak that is not surreal. The carpet salesman who arrives at, and leaves, the sisters' madhouse cottage in non-commercial circumstances, is played at fever pitch by the deservedly busy Robert Glenister.

The Lent Talks: Stranger than Fiction. *Radio 4, 8.45pm.*

Being the realistic writer he is — *Priest* for the big screen, *Cracker* for the small one — Jimmy McGovern draws on both for his intensely personal reflections on literal and symbolical crucifixions. Paramount among the elements that he assembles are his father's death and his wife's raw deal. McGovern confronts Fitz, the boozy, gambling criminal psychologist in *Cracker* and confronts him with Pilate and Judas. Three flawed men. Then he adds a fourth, himself. McGovern's screen writing is almost wholly cliché-free. So are these confessions of his on radio.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo **4.00am** Charlie Jordan **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson incl at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat and at **1.15** The Net **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Clive Warren, incl **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat, and at **6.15** The Net **7.00** Evening Session **9.00** Collins and Maconie's Hit Parade **10.00** John Peel **Midnight** Claire Sturgess, incl at **12.15am** The Net

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **6.15** *Pause for Thought* **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce, incl at **10.00** Pick of the Hits **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** The News Huddlines **7.30** David Allen **9.00** Paul Jones **10.00** Gospel Train **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden, incl at **1.30** Pause for Thought **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme incl **6.55, 7.55** Racing preview **8.35** The Magazine incl **10.35** Euronews **11.30** Health News **12.00** Midday with Mair incl **12.34pm** Moneycheck **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05** Ruscoe on Five incl at **3.15** Prime Minister's Question Time **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide, incl **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra, incl at **7.20** Sport **7.35** On the Line **8.05** Women on Top **9.05** SportsAmerica **9.35** American Graffiti **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra **12.05am** After Hours — Early Call **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm **7.00** Sean Bolger **10.00** James Whale **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **BST**. **5.00am** News **5.30** Europe **6.00** News **6.30** Today **7.00** News **7.30** Sport **8.00** News **8.15** Off the Shelf **8.30** Network UK **9.00** News in German **9.15** Composer **10.00** News **10.05** Business Report **10.15** Sport **0.45** Sport **1.00** News **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Off the Shelf **12.00** News **12.30pm** Meridian **1.00** News in German **1.15** Britain **1.30** Assignment **2.00** News **3.00** News **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Multitrack **4.00** News **4.05** Sport **4.15** BBC English **4.30** News **5.00** Europe **5.30** Business Report **5.45** Britain **6.00** News **6.10** World **6.15** Take Five **6.30** News in German **6.45** Sport **7.00** News **7.30** Assignment **8.00** News **9.00** News **9.01** Outlook **9.25** Words of Faith **9.30** John Peel **10.00** News **10.05** Business **10.15** Britain **10.30** Meridian **11.00** News **11.30** World **11.45** Sport **12.00** World **12.10am** Take Five **12.15** Soundbyte **12.30** Blues World **1.00** News **1.30** Farming **1.45** Britain **2.00** News **2.30** Outlook **2.55** Word of Faith **3.00** News day **3.30** Drama: *Ties* **4.00** World **4.15** Sport **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Margaret Howard **2.00pm** Concerto. Recital by painist Ekaterina Apekisheva **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** News **6.30** Sonata. Schubert (Violin Sonata in A, D574) **7.00** Travel **8.00** Concert. Mendelssohn (Overture, The Hebrides); Haydn (Cello Concerto No 2 in D); Debussy (Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune); Vaughan Williams (A London Symphony, Symphony No 2) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyte **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00-6.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Mendelssohn (String Symphony No 12 in G minor: Hanover Band under Roy Goodman); Strauss (Suite, Le Bourgeois gentilhomme: Orpheus Concert Orchestra); Rachmaninov (Aleko, excerpts: Philharmonia under Neeme Järvi); Pergolesi (Salve Regina in A minor. Gillian Fisher, soprano, with The King's Consort under Robert King); Arensky (Fantasia on Russian Folk Songs: Stephen Coombs, piano, BBC Scottish SO, under Jerzy Maksymiuk); Respighi (Ballad of the Gnomes: Philharmonia under Geoffrey Simon)

9.00 Morning Collection. Brahms (Two Rhapsodies Op 79: Martha Argerich, piano); Tchaikovsky (Suite No 3 in G: USSR Ministry of Cluture Symphony Orchestra under Gennadi Rozhdestvensky)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Haydn (Symphony No 30 in C, Alleluia); **10.15** *Artist of the Week*: Dawn Upshaw, soprano Stravinsky (No word from Tom, Rake's Progress); Chopin (Scherzo No 4 in E); Whettam (A Mass for Canterbury); JC Bach (Sinfonia in B flat), Hindemith (The Four Temperaments)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Schubert

1.00pm Airs and Affections: Operas for Covent Garden

2.00 Alexander Toradze, piano, performs Haydn (Sonata in G minor); Ravel (Miroirs); Babajanian (Six Pieces); Prokofiev (Sonata No 7 in B flat) (r)

3.25 The BBC Orchestras. BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Tadaaki Otaka, with Steven Isserlis, cello, Emanuel Ax, piano. Brahms (Piano Concerto No 2 in B flat); Strauss (Don Quixote)

5.00 The Music Machine. Techno-speak and the Science of Sound with electroacoustic composer Katherine Norman and Godric Wilkie

5.15 In Tune with David Owen Norris. Schubert (The Friends of Salamanka, excerpt); Haydn (Piano Trio in B flat); Balfour Gardiner (Salamanca)

7.30 Northern Sinfonia under Heinrich Schiff, cello, with Robert Plane, clarinet. Lutoslawski (Grave); Shostakovich (Cello Concerto No 1); Lutoslawski (Dance Preludes); Haydn (Symphony No 104 in D)

8.55 Cultural Baggage: Shopping

9.15 The Formidable Virtuoso Herr Biber. John Holloway, Elizabeth Kenny, theorbo, and John Toll, harpsichord/organ perform three sonatas from Biber's *Sonatae violino solo*, and talks about them with George Pratt (r)

10.00 Music Restored with Helen Garrison. The Clerks' Group

10.45 Night Waves. Humphrey Carpenter talks to Peter Whelan about his new play *Divine Right* which imagines the growth of a republican movement

11.30 Composer of the Week: Rubbra (r)

12.30-1.00am Jazz Notes. Digby Fairweather introduces The Best of British Jazz in concert

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (**LW** only) **6.00** *News Briefing* and weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.25, 8.25** *Sport* **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather

9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze. Michael Buerk is joined by Janet Daley, Peter Stanford, Michael Mansfield QC and Dr David Starkey

10.00-10.30 News; Pankhiraj (FM only) Comedy by Tanika Gupta (2/4)

10.00 Daily Service (**LW** only)

10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (**LW** only)

10.30 Woman's Hour. Jenni Murray meets Joyce Poole who has lived alone for 15 years in the Kenyan bush studying elephants

11.30 From Out Own Correspondent

12.00 News; You and Yours with Chris Choi

12.25pm Looking Forward to the Past with guests Kevin Day, Lord St John of Fawsley, Andrew Motion and Michael Wood **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One

1.40 The Archers *(r)* **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; The Two Sisters. See Choice

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift with Daire Brehan

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan reports on Dominic Dromgoole's swansong as he bids farewell to the Bush Theatre in London; and Ted Danson stars in a new television version of *Gulliver's Travels*

4.45 Short Story: Is There Life after Soft Furnishings? by Elizabeth Edwards

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** *Weather*

6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Darling You Were Marvellous. Sandy Toksvig is joined by Tony Hawks, Toby Longworth, Maria McErlane and Graham Norton

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 Soundtrack. See Choice

8.00 The Day God Died. Joan Bakewell chairs an inquest into the rumours of God's death. With Don Cupitt of Emmanuel College Cambridge; Daphne Hampson of St Andrews University; Keith Ward, Professor of Divinity at Oxford; and writer and broadcaster David Winter

8.45 Stranger than Fiction. See Choice

9.00 Does He Take Sugar? Presented by Frederick Dove

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight with Robin Lustig

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Stalin's Nose by Rory MacLean. Read by Alistair McGowan (4/10)

11.00 George Melly's Owning Up . . . to Lovely Digs. The second part of the dramatisation of George Melly's autobiography

11.30 Utopia and Other Destinations (r)

12.00 News, incl **12.27am** Weather

12.30 The Late Book: Devil in a Blue Dress by Walter Mosley (4/10)

12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO UK.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson**

هكذا من الاهل

هنا من الاهرام

All is anything but quiet on the home front

REVIEW

Peter Barnard

According to a survey for last night's **Home Front** (BBC2), 47 per cent of people regard the 1960s as the decade they would most like to have lived in. The inference is that, instead of programmes that summon interior designers to tell us how to tile a bathroom, nearly half the audience would be quite happy watching reruns of Barry Bucknell.

Ah, Barry, wherefore art thou? Bucknell of the slicked-back hair and the thin-lipped smile would stand at a bench showing us not only how to make a set of shelves out of proper wood but also how to fix them on the wall. By his drills, his Rawlplugs and his stainless steel screws, so shall ye remember him.

In those days, you did-it-yourself in black and white. Armed with Barry's tips, you went to a timber merchant for said shelf and you sawed it and planed it to size. You did not go to B&Q for a pre-sawn piece of laminated chipboard, much less did you pick up an interior designer on the way through the checkout.

Home Front is of the modern school of decoration. Here are three people with between £200 and £12,000 to spend on making their kitchens a joy to slave in. They sound as if they could think for themselves but their intellect has been unplugged from the mains to justify bringing in a professional.

And here is a bathroom in bland white. What this needs, apparently, is another professional with a pile of multicoloured tiles which are placed on the wall in such a way as to suggest that most contemporary of designs, a terrorist device exploded against the wall of a paint factory.

Not that an interior designer is *de rigueur* in these matters. You could always call in . . . a local historian. *Home Front* took one to the circa-1900 home of a young couple in Pudsey, Yorkshire.

He discovered that the grand old fireplace had been gloss-painted. As for the stairs, here was a touch of Victorian skimpery, by which the banister was made of oak but the stair rails were made from pitched pine to save money. To save money! Those were the days. Try finding a plank of pitched pine in B&Q.

I should not be too harsh on *Home Front*, which takes up in this new series where it left off in the last: the programme is essentially a clearing house for ideas and as such it succeeds. But with negative equity obliging record numbers of people to make the most of what they have, I long for something that tells me how to do it rather than how to find somebody who knows how to do it.

Another programme that returned last night has an altogether different purpose. East (BBC2) is an excellent, gutsy series which takes Asia seriously and asks the viewer to concentrate. The effort is rewarded.

The first of the new season brought Mark Tully to the screen, I think for the first time since his acrimonious departure from the staff of the BBC. Tully is a marvellous broadcaster of the old school, a Bucknell of current affairs, who tells the story and refuses to become part of it.

In India all is turmoil and now there is a fresh manifestation. India's Christians are in a ferment and it has nothing to do with Sikhs or Hindus. The ferment is internal and concerns the caste system.

The Dalits (formerly Untouchables) are the lowest of the Indian castes and Christian Dalits are no better treated for being believers. In the Madras Roman Catholic diocese there have been murders of Dalit priests, rapes of Dalit nuns and violent demonstrations.

This is a classic cultural clash. Upper-caste Christians seem unable to shake off the caste system. Just as village Dalits are forced to live at the bottom of the hill while the upper-caste Christians live at the top (next to the church), so the Dalits are forced to sit at the back of churches and Dalit priests are hounded from office.

Unfortunately, here as elsewhere, the Roman Catholic Church could never be confused with a rapid response unit. But at last the Vatican has started to assist the Dalits. The Vicar-General of the Madras diocese was admirably open in admitting the errors of the past and he has recently had the courage to remove a priest from one parish for failing to show a proper regard for Dalit Christians.

The struggle is not over, however, and the Dalits become increasingly restive. They have a lot to be restive about: whereas 65 per cent of Dalits are Christians, only 3.5 per cent of priests, bishops and others in the hierarchy are Dalits.

Further east, the chirpy Ian Wright went to Uzbekistan and Kirghistan for **Lonely Planet** (Channel 4), which is a travel show and should not be confused with a holiday show. Uzbekistan and Kirghistan are to Benidorm what John Major is to charisma. "Bring your own toilet paper, bring your own food and be prepared for hell," cries a cheerful traveller at the beginning but, for all that, distant Asia is plainly attractive and even addictive, a region of natural grandeur in which the Concrete Society has yet to run its writ.

Wright wrestled with the locals (and won a live black sheep), crossed plains on a horse and had a fine time with the language barrier on a train: having asked the conductor for a ticket, he was brought a cup of tea. Try that on Railtrack.

The food in Uzbekistan, a new republic lately released from the Russian shackle, is consistent. There is mutton with rice and mutton with potatoes, but if you like neither rice nor potatoes there was always, er, plain mutton. Or a sheep's eye.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (16094)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (47365)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (7177384)
9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (7300346)
9.45 Kilroy (s) (1460839)
10.30 Good Morning (s) (93029)
12.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (6163549)
12.05pm Room for Improvement (s) (8941839)
12.35 Going for Gold (s) (3092297)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (40452)
1.30 Regional News and weather (94734094)
1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (44916758)
2.00 The Flying Doctors (Ceefax) (s) (8691181)
3.30 Playdays (r) (1975452) **3.50 Dinobabies** (1962988) **4.10 The Wizard of Oz** (Ceefax) (2172839) **4.35** (r) (Ceefax) (s) **The Boot Street Band** (9771549) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (1277100) **5.10 The Ant and Dec Show** (Ceefax) (s) (1473704)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (116758)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (87)
6.30 Regional News magazines (839)
7.00 Top of the Pops (Ceefax) (s) (3471)
7.30 EastEnders. Roy has bad news for Barry; Gita settles some overdue business; and Ricky has plans for his future, but will Blanca make his dreams come true? Meanwhile, Michael's attempts to help Alan and Carol go disastrously wrong (Ceefax) (s) (723)
8.00 Wildlife on One: Meerkats Divided. The Meerkats are back! The stars of one of *Wildlife on One*'s most famous programmes, *Meerkats United*, are back in a real-life drama. Narrated by David Attenborough (Ceefax) (s) (9891)
8.30 Auntie's Sporting Bloomers. Terry Wogan presents a selection of sporting gaffes on film (r) (Ceefax) (s) (8926)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (9636)
9.30 Absolutely Fabulous. Patsy and Saffron lock horns; Patsy gets Edina involved with her magazine and Saffron and Edina's mother are victims of a Patsy make-over. With Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley (r) (Ceefax) (s) (55297)
10.00 Making Babies. Seven-part series begins by focusing on Professor Robert Winston, who runs Britain's busiest IVF clinic at London's Hammersmith hospital (Ceefax) (s) (228487)
10.55 The Road to Golgotha. Rob Duncan reflects on the humiliation of Jesus. Athlete Diane Modahl tells of her humiliating struggle to clear her name after she was accused of taking performance-enhancing drugs. (s) (300810)
11.10 FILM: Places in the Heart (1984) with Sally Field, John Malkovich and Danny Glover. A recently widowed cotton farmer battles against the odds to make her cotton plantation a success. Directed by Robert Benton (297433)
1.00am Weather (7004834)

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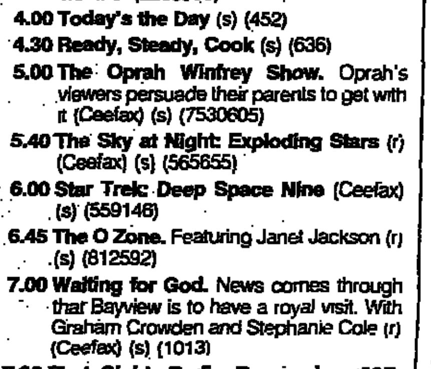
BBC2

6.00am Open University: Education and Society (7901094) **6.25** The History of Maths (7093029) **6.50** Technology (8997471)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (4081094) **7.30 The Record** (7867742)
7.55 Christopher Crocodile (r) (1687723) **8.00 Charlie Chalk** (r) (7335931) **8.15 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles** (r) (Ceefax) (7123297) **8.40 Blue Peter** (r) (Ceefax) (8814181) **9.05 Mighty Max** (r) (7310723) **9.30 Activ-8** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (35487) **10.00 Playdays** (r) (6155655) **10.25 Star Trek** (r) (4450452) **10.50 The Tick** (r) (1328704) **11.10 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased)** (r) (8096549)
12.00 Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century: The Scarsdale Killing (60984) **12.30pm Working Lunch** (33075)
1.00 Charlie Chalk (r) (42080384)
1.15 Pyramids of Peru (r) (6657510)
2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (5372636)
3.00 News (Ceefax) (7038094)
3.05 The Natural World: The Comrades of the Kalahari (r) (Ceefax) (s) (7191029)
3.55 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2265568)
4.00 Today's the Day (s) (452)
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (636)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Oprah's viewers persuade their parents to get with it (Ceefax) (s) (7530605)
5.40 The Sky at Night: Exploding Stars (r) (Ceefax) (s) (565655)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (Ceefax) (s) (559146)
6.45 The O Zone. Featuring Janet Jackson (r) (s) (812592)
7.00 Waiting for God. News comes through that Bayview is to have a royal visit. With Graham Crowden and Stephanie Cole (r) (Ceefax) (s) (1013)
7.30 First Sight: Radio Renegades (365) **N.I.: 7.30** Now You're Talking **7.55** Our Roving Reporter **WALES: 7.30** Dad's Army (365)
8.00 One Foot in the Past Special: The Baedecker Blitz. Hitler wanted to bomb every British building with three stars in the Baedecker tourist guide (r) (7433)
8.30 Top Gear (Ceefax) (s) (6568)



Dr Alfred Kinsey (9.00pm)

9.00 Reputations: Alfred Kinsey: The Man Who Invented Modern Sex (Ceefax) (s) (545365)
10.00 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? (r) (Ceefax) (10443)
10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (280487)
11.15 Late Review (s) (792452)
12.00 The Trouble with Pork (s) (95476) **WALES: 12.00** The All-New Alexei Sayle Show (95476)
12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

CHOICE

Africa Express
Channel 4, 8.00pm

Nigeria has an image problem and the Government has launched a campaign to counter it. By any standards of democracy, the military dictatorship falls well short. The country has a reputation for fraud. The execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other civil rights activists was condemned throughout the world. Reporter Toyin Fani-Kayode returns to her home country to test the water. In Congo, meanwhile, the prison department has run out of money. Rather than let its prisoners starve, it is letting them out so that they can feed themselves. The third report is from Namibia, about a debate on whether tourism should benefit the local community or outside commercial interests. The site of the controversy is the Brandberg, the country's highest mountain.

Reputations: Alfred Kinsey
BBC2, 9.00pm

Clare Beavan's watchable profile is subtitled *The Man Who Invented Modern Sex*. But Kinsey did not invent anything. Rather, he revealed to startled Americans that there was a lot more sexual activity going on than many of them either approved of or were willing publicly to acknowledge. But in exposing, through thousands of exhaustive interviews, such a high incidence of pre-marital and extra-marital sex, and of practising homosexuality, Kinsey helped to pave the way for the sexual revolution of the 1960s. The film presents an untypical revolutionary. Brought up as a strict Methodist, Kinsey married the first girl he dated and met the outcry that greeted his revelations by playing the detached and objective scientist. He is remembered by his daughters and by Gore Vidal and William Burroughs, who contributed to his survey.

Undercover Britain: Taken to the Cleaners
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Zrinka and Neven, two Sarajevan radio journalists who fled to Britain from the war in Bosnia, go undercover to expose the exploitation of political asylum seekers. New rules introduced in February mean that many are left without state benefit. But if they get work, they often have to settle for the worst. A contract cleaning company gets Zrinka a chambermaid's job at the Heathrow Hilton. She is paid £1.40 an hour. Neven is offered £12 a day to deliver leaflets. Student visas are one way of avoiding deportation while another is a marriage, or a common law relationship, with a British subject. Our investigators discover a college principal prepared to issue a visa and a "lawyer" (a woman with no more than a law degree) ready to set up a marriage. They charge handsomely for their scams.

Making Babies
BBC1, 10.00pm

Professor Robert Winston, the infertility specialist, may be a leader in his field but he admits that all too often he is trading in disappointment. Yet for couples unable to have children by conventional methods his unit at Hammersmith Hospital in London can offer the last best hope. Joanna Clinton Davies's series follows, in intimate detail, some of Winston's patients through the IVF programme. They know that most treatments fail the first time. The early spotlight is on Tania, who has had four unsuccessful pregnancies, and her partner, a fireman. As her treatment proceeds, their relationship becomes increasingly strained. She finds it easier to confide in a woman friend, he in a mate at the fire station. She fears he may leave her if no baby arrives. But nobody, least of all Professor Winston, pretended it would be easy. **Peter Waymark**

HTV

6.00am GMTV (6359100)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (7318365)
9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (6132704)
10.00 The Time . . . the Place (s) (2745297)
10.35 This Morning (44545297)
12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (6152433)
12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (3088094)
12.55 Shortland Street (s) (3096013) **1.25 Coronation Street** (r) (Teletext) (5229655) **2.00 Home and Away** (Teletext) (s) (54925520) **2.25 Chain Letters** (Teletext) (s) (54944655) **2.50 Vanessa** (Teletext) (s) (4353029)
3.20 News (Teletext) (7045384)
3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (7044655)
3.30 The Riddlers (r) (8180839) **3.40 Wizadora** (r) (s) (7998810) **3.50 Rupert** (1971636) **4.15 Mike and Angelo** (2166278) **4.40 Crazy Cottage** (Teletext) (s) (5734029)
5.10 A Country Practice (s) (6527146)
5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (552181)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (s) (765425)
6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (593891)
7.00 Emmerdale. (Teletext) (s) (5839)

Jill Bridge of Blackpool (7.30pm)

7.30 3-D. Julia Somerville investigates the Football Association's treatment of women (s) (891)
8.00 The Bill. A blunder by Keane has Monroe on the warpath (Teletext) (7487)
8.30 Oddballs. Eamonn Holmes presents clips of sporting gaffes, with the help of American footballer William Perry, "The Fridge", who now plays for the London Monarchs (Teletext) (s) (3094)
9.00 Taggart: Angel Eyes. (3/3) Jardine and Reid are getting nowhere and becoming desperate in their search for the serial killer of gay men. It could be that their junior colleague, Fraser, is at risk (Teletext) (s) (2075)
10.00 News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (61177) **10.30 Regional News** (392891)
10.40 Getaways. Linda Ward goes on an activities holiday near Redruth, Anne Gregg boards Le Shuttle and drives to the historic city of Bruges in Belgium and Adrian Mills learns about computers on the Isle of Wight. Plus: this week's postcard comes from Barcelona (Teletext) (202758)
11.10 On the Line. Live discussion on one of the week's big stories (759162)
11.40 Prisoner Cell Block H (150452)
12.40am Carnal Knowledge (4658292)
1.40 Not Fade Away (s) (4742582) **2.40 Shift** (3921766) **3.35 Late & Loud** (r) (s) (9248563)
4.30 The Time . . . the Place (r) (s) (20747)
5.00 Garden Calendar (98650)
5.30 Morning News (23259)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except:
6.25pm-7.00 Wales Tonight (593891)
7.30-8.00 Wales This Week (891)
10.40 Strangely Scientific (202758)
11.10-11.40 3-D (759162)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.25-12.30 My Story (6160452)
12.55 Emmerdale (3096013)
1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (79429549)
1.55 Home and Away (68529704)
2.25 Vanessa (54935907)
2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (2361164)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6527146)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (38520)
10.40 Special Report. Daniel Boettcher reports on people who have chosen to live below ground (202758)
11.10-11.40 Tales from the Crypt: Death of Some Salesman (759162)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (3096013)
1.25 Chain Letters. Word game presented by Vince Henderson (79429549)
1.55 A Country Practice (44817433)
2.20 Vanessa (54936636)
2.50-3.20 High Road (4353029)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6527146)
6.25 Central News and Weather (810574)
6.55-7.00 Life Line (870810)
10.40 Crime Stalker (300100)
11.40 Max Monroe: Loose Cannon (150452)
3.35am Customs Classified (2285414)
4.20 Jobfinder (5387292)
5.20 Asian Eye (1415582)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55pm Chain Letters (3096013)
1.25 Home and Away (79429549)
1.55 Shortland Street (44817433)
2.20 Vanessa (54936636)
2.50-3.20 Surprise Chefs (4353029)
5.10 Home and Away (6527146)
5.37-5.40 Three Minutes - Crimestoppers (744636)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (655)
6.30-7.00 Grass Roots (907)
10.40 Film: Class Action (68712094)
12.40am Phoenix (4858292)
5.00 Freescreen (98650)

S4C

Starts: 6.35 Fifteen to One (8978346) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (30075) **9.00 Saved by the Bell: The New Class** (7306520) **9.25 Gamesmaster** (7316907) **9.55 California Dreams** (6999094) **10.20 Mork and Mindy** (6151839) **10.50 Dennis** (4839013) **11.05 The Pink Panther** (4623926) **11.30 Extreme** (4570075) **12.25pm Deputy Dawg** (6168094) **12.30 A Box Full of Stories** (51471) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (33162) **1.30 Film: Sink the Bismarck!** (31243182) **3.15 Ricki Lake** (6046568) **4.00 Jimmy's** (520) **4.30 The Lonely Planet** (704) **5.00 5 Pump Uned 5** (3617) **5.30 Fifteen to One** (384) **6.00 Newyddion** (465617) **6.15 Heno** (241926) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (310013) **7.25 Ma Ifan Ma** (701758) **8.00 Clecx** (5029) **8.30 Newyddion** (1636) **9.00 I dot** (8407) **10.00 Annie's Bar** (61159) **10.30 Film: Honeymoon in Vegas** (15936907) **12.20am Dispatches** (3967872)

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Fifteen to One (r) (Teletext) (s) (8978346)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (30075)
9.00 Saved by the Bell: The New Class (r) (s) (7306520) **9.25 Gamesmaster** with Dominik Diamond and Patrick Moore (r) (7316907)
9.55 California Dreams. American comedy drama about an aspiring pop group (r) (6999094)
10.20 Mork and Mindy starring Pam Dawber and Robin Williams (r) (6151839) **10.50 Dennis** (r) (4839013) **11.05 The Pink Panther** (r) (4623926) **11.30 Extreme** (r) (Teletext) (s) (4570075) **12.25pm Deputy Dawg** (6168094) **12.30 Sesame Street.** The guests are Bill Irwin and Whoopi Goldberg (r) (42926)

Ian Dury turns storyteller (1.30pm)

1.30 A Box Full of Stories. Ian Dury reads The Lucky Weaver, a tale from India. (Teletext) (s) (68542655)
1.55 Making Money A comedy short from New Zealand (44824723)
2.15 FILM: The Night My Number Came Up (1955, b/w) with Michael Redgrave. A thriller about a man whose terrifying dreams about a flight to Japan begin to come true Directed by Leslie Norman (Teletext) (826100)
4.00 Jimmy's. Another visit to St James's Hospital, Leeds (r) (Teletext) (s) (520)
4.30 Fifteen to One (Teletext) (s) (704)
5.00 Ricki Lake. The guests are given a make-over for less than $30 (Teletext) (s) (6858605)
5.45 Terrytoons (833568)
6.00 NBA 24/7. Basketball action (297)
6.30 Roseanne: Girl Talk (r) (Teletext) (s) (549)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (478432)
7.50 The Slot (627075)
8.00 CHOICE **Africa Express** (Teletext) (s) (5029)
8.30 Food File. Includes a profile of the aspiring culinary star Allegra McKevity (Teletext) (s) (1636)
9.00 CHOICE **Undercover Britain: Taken to the Cleaners** (2346)
9.30 Annie's Bar. The last episode of the Parliamentary drama serial (Teletext) (s) (48907)
10.00 NYPD Blue. New York police drama series (Teletext) (s) (148297)
10.55 Whose Line Is It Anyway? Improvised comedy. With Clive Anderson and Tony Slattery (r) (Teletext) (s) (904100)
11.30 Get Up, Stand Up. Comedy from Malcolm Frederick, Chris Tummings and Angie Le Mar (r) (Teletext) (s) (22568)
12.00 Dispatches (r) (Teletext) (4368495)
12.50 FILM: Playing for Time (1980) with Vanessa Redgrave. Television film about an all-woman orchestra formed by the Nazis in the Auschwitz concentration camp. Directed by Daniel Mann (99821476). Ends at **3.25am**

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY ONE

7.00am Undun (83181) **9.00** Press Your Luck (8897365) **9.20** Love Connection (9026094) **9.45** Oprah Winfrey (2104100) **10.40** Jeopardy! (2002094) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (9510928) **12.00** Beechy (90384) **1.00pm** Hotel (76704) **2.00** Geraldo (47891) **3.00** Court TV (1278) **3.30** Oprah Winfrey (5965742) **4.15** Undun (9512891) **5.00** Star Trek (8758) **6.00** The Simpsons (9549) **6.30** Jeopardy! (6029) **7.00** LAPD (9487) **7.30** M*A*S*H (2013) **8.00** Through the Keyhole (2907) **8.30** Animal Practice (4742) **9.00** The Commish (28723) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (29810) **11.00** Melrose Place (70617) **12.00** Late Show (7544650) **12.45am** The Trials of Rosie O'Neill (2773768) **1.30** Anything But Love (89018) **2.00** Hit Mix (6452196)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour. **9.30am** Beyond 2000 (59839) **10.30** ABC Nightline (67588) **1.30pm** CBS News Part I (26013) **2.30** CBS News (14907) **3.30** Beyond 2000 (1907) **6.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton (22926) **7.30** Sportsline (10365) **8.30** Reuters Reports (2384) **11.30** CBS News (97655) **12.30am** ABC World News (24679) **1.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton Replay (80501) **2.30** Reuters Reports (19698) **3.30** Beyond 2000 (14143) **4.30** CBS News (96650) **5.30** ABC World News (85259)

SKY MOVIES

[illegible] **Summer Interlude** (1951) [illegible] **8.00 The Miracle of Our Lady of** [illegible] (1952) (61471) **10.00 Surf Ninjas** [illegible] (82365) **12.00 Norma Rae** (1979) [illegible] **2.00pm The Call of the Wild** [illegible] (10162) **4.00 The Secret Garden** [illegible] (3903) **6.00 Meteor Man** (1993) (7861398) **7.40** US Top Ten (564487) **8.00 Flesh and Bone** (1993) (35471) **10.00 Dave** (1993) (403487) **11.55 Red Sun Rising** (1993) (975094) **1.40am The Man from Left Field** (1993) (643563) **3.20 Reunion** (1989) (32406132)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Robin Hood (1939) (2704) **6.00 The Paper Chase** (1973) (12568) **8.00 Driver** (1978) (17013) **10.00 Platoon** (1986) (10791384) **12.05am King Kong** (1933) (984476) **1.45 Son of Kong** (1933) (9790653) **2.50-4.05 The Circus** (1928) (6359495)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Once Upon a Forest (1993) (8434891) **7.15 Fern the Red Deer** (1977) (697617) **8.15 Robin Hood Junior** (1975) (141013) **9.15 Avalanche** (1975) (6070704) **10.20 Up in the Air** (1969) (7052162) **11.20 The Three Musketeers** (1992) (3335348) **12.15pm Wild Stallion** (1952) (151520) **2.00 On an Island with You** (1948) (18704) **4.00 Bigfoot: The Unforgettable Encounter** (1994) (65384) **5.30 The Man with the Golden Gun** (1974) (117549) **8.00 My Girl 2** (1994) (19039655) **9.40 The Movie Show** (649758) **10.10 The Dark Half** (1992) (887810) **12.10am Party Favors** (1990) (7646037) **1.40 Flight from Justice** (1993) (925879) **3.15 The Prom** (1992) (3789921) **4.10 Wild Stallion** (1952) (904853)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Quack Attack (49722723) **6.30** Chip 'n' Dale Rescue Rangers (49167826) **7.00** Ducktales (10596365) **7.30** Winnie the Pooh (10508100) **8.00** Quack Attack (93777075) **8.30** Chip 'n' Dale (93778346) **9.00** Shnookums & Meat Funny Cartoon Show (93790826) **9.30** Quack Attack (16837015) **10.00** Ducktales (49158278) **10.30** Chip 'n' Dale (93789610) **11.00** Winnie the Pooh (42158910) **11.30** Quack Attack (42166839) **12.00** Disney (23582948) **1.00pm** FILM. The Chipmunk Adventure (49732100) **2.30** Winnie the Pooh (80739568) **3.00** Quack Attack (87033100) **3.30** Ducktales (80734013) **4.00** Chip 'n' Dale (80713520) **4.30** Shnookums and Meat Funny Cartoon Show (80719704) **5.00** Boy Meets World (87012617) **5.30** Danger Bay (80733384) **6.00** Tarzan (80730297) **6.30** Dinosaurs (80721549) **7.00** The Torkelsons (87025181) **7.30** Faerie Tale Theatre (42686641) **8.30** Entertainment (92081891) **9.30-10.00** Dinosaurs (22132407)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Equestrianism (99384) **8.30** Olympic Magazine (42384) **9.00** Extreme Games (16520) **10.00** Motors (33100) **11.00** Formula 1 (32810) **11.30** Motorcycling Magazine (40839) **12.00** Karting (60278) **1.00pm** Speed Skiing (24452) **1.30** Surfing (73742) **2.00** Aquabiking (6365) **2.30** Eurofun (1988) **3.00** Extreme Games (44855) **4.00** Ski Surfing (5568) **4.30** Snowboarding (4452) **5.00** Aerobics (9452) **6.00** Boxing (59162) **7.00** Body Building (51433) **8.00** Pro Wrestling (60181) **9.00** Football (70568) **11.00** Formula 1 (24891) **11.30-12.30am** Funboard (37297)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Sports Centre (30013) **7.30** Asian Football (71988) **8.30** Racing News (24988) **9.00** Aerobics Oz Style (48568) **9.30** International Cricket: West Indies v New Zealand (98471) **11.30** Football: Liverpool v Newcastle (48471) **12.00** Snooker: British Open (3707029) **5.00pm** Powerboat World (2549) **5.30** Netbusters (5556) **6.00** Sports Centre (7549) **6.30** Formula Three Racing (4029) **7.00** Super League: London v Paris (28667365) **9.25** Sports Centre (190452) **9.30** Badminton: English Nationals (230839) **12.00** Sports Centre (79476) **12.30am** Formula Three Racing (62698) **1.00** Super League: London v Paris (38308) **3.00-3.30** Sports Centre (72209)

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00pm Snooker: British Open — Live (7590075) **11.00** The Rugby Club (3340636) **12.00** Netbusters (2987476) **12.30-1.00am** Inside the PGA Tour (7919785)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

6.15am Christliche Gemeinde Koln **6.45** Good Morning Europe **4.00** Thought for the Day **4.05** Worship **4.15** Kidz TV **4.30** Benny Hinn **5.00** Kenneth & Gloria Copeland **5.30** Christian Music TV **5.45** 700 Club

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (8031839) **7.55** As the World Turns (1604471) **8.50** Peyton Place (3756384) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (3733669) **10.10-11.00** Another World (3369988)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (7137181) **11.30** Sports Vacations (7138810) **12.00** Your World (5163510) **12.30pm** Food of China (1534636) **1.00** Getaway (3436487) **1.30** Around the World (1533907) **2.00** Classic Car Chase (2374033) **3.00** Globetrotter (4470278) **3.30** Around the World (7676100) **3.55-4.00** Holiday Shop (10862926)

Humphrey Bogart stars in *The Maltese Falcon* (TNT, 9.00pm)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm The Great Days of the Century (7128433) **5.00** Memories of 1987 (4567758) **6.00-7.00** Biography (1542655)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am The Six Million Dollar Man (9049105) **2.00** FILM: The Missing Are Deadly (85831105) **3.10-4.00** Friday the 13th (2182853)

TLC

9.00am Surprise Chefs (3229181) **9.30** Grow Your Own (1109636) **10.00** Two's Country (4178520) **10.30** Our House (3225365) **11.00** Room for Improvement (7300433) **11.30** Craftwise (7301162) **12.00** Julia Child (3216817) **12.30pm** The Frugal Gourmet (1103452) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (1256075) **1.30** Furniture to Go (1102723) **2.00** Our House (8657549) **2.30** Gardens (6515100) **3.00** Screaming Reels (8669384) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (6594617)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (1259162) **7.30** Neighbours (1278297) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (3215988) **8.30** EastEnders (3310487) **9.00** The Bill (3238839) **9.30** The Sullivans (1101094) **10.00** All Creatures Great and Small (1267181) **11.00** Bullseye (7302891) **11.30** Odd One Out (9303278) **12.05pm** Sons and Daughters (23993655) **12.30** Neighbours (1105810) **1.00** EastEnders (4654297) **1.35** Sykes (2951742) **2.15** Brush Strokes (3787487) **2.50** Butterflies (3358346) **3.30** The Bill (6596075) **4.00** Casualty (7326471) **5.00** Every Second Counts (1854389) **5.45** 'Allo 'Allo! (3089471) **6.25** EastEnders (9358487) **7.00** Two Ronnies (4018617) **8.00** Bullseye (8862471) **8.30** Home James (8658278) **9.00** Minder (4110029) **10.00** The Bill (2101433) **10.35** Bottom (6053384) **11.10** The Sweeney (2086278) **12.10am** Sport (3019872) **1.05** Public Eye (1407211) **2.00** Shopping At Night (3449143)

TCC

6.00am Tiny and Crew (49384) **7.00** Sesame Street (20452) **8.00** Barney (65013) **8.30** Dinobabies (64384) **9.00** Art Attack (7327159) **9.15** No Naked Flames (7606907) **9.30** Ready or Not (12655) **10.00** Heartbreak High (65346) **10.30** Hang Time (64520) **11.00** Madison (81100) **11.30** Babysitters Club (62029) **12.00** Garfield (88100) **12.30pm** Felix the Cat (16471) **1.00** Earthworm Jim (26592) **1.30** Creepy Crawlers (15742) **2.00** Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventures (5655) **2.30** Gravedale High (1704) **3.00** Eek the Cat (4162) **3.30** Pink Panther (3549) **4.00** California Dreams (5384) **4.30-5.00** Heartbreak High (1568)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Banana Sandwich (73988) **7.00** Killer Tomatoes (38655) **7.30** Pet Shop (17162) **8.00** Wishbone (29487) **8.30** Rude Dog (26758) **9.00** Biker Mice (39810) **9.30** Clarissa (56029) **10.00** Rugrats (60520) **10.30** Aaahh!! (35094) **11.00** Rocko (45384) **11.30** Doug (46013) **12.00** Sister Sister (26346) **12.30pm** Pete & Pete (54617) **1.00** Capitol Critters (37926) **1.30** Pet Shop (53988) **2.00** Wishbone (9839) **2.30** Rude Dog (7162) **3.00** Count Duckula (8346) **3.30** Teenage Turtles (9907) **4.00** Cryptkeeper (1742) **4.30** Rugrats (7926) **5.00** Sister Sister (3891) **5.30** Alex Mack (8278) **6.00** Ren & Stimpy (8891) **6.30-7.00** Clarissa (2471)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Time Travellers (6506452) **4.30** Human/Nature (6502636) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (8744029) **5.30** Voyager (6593988) **6.00** Lifeboat (6698029) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (9203075) **7.30** Arthur C Clarke's World (6503365) **8.00** The Professionals (4025907) **9.00** Top Marques (7320297) **9.30** Flightline (1190988) **10.00** Wheels (4111758) **11.00-12.00** Subs! (1268452)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: Hobson's Choice (4185810) **2.00pm** Department S (4173075) **3.00** Danger Man (7309704) **4.00** FILM: Sweet Hostage (8667926) **6.00** The Green Hornet (6510655) **6.30** Department S (9303029) **7.30** Sapphire and Steel (6590881) **8.00** Planet of the Apes (4012433) **9.00** Twin Peaks (48138100) **10.45-12.00** FILM: Invasion of the Saucer Men (39722075)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Diff'rent Strokes (3655) **7.30** Entertainment (8655) **8.00** Benson (9075) **8.30** Family Ties (1810) **9.00** Soap (25520) **9.30** Taxi (87181) **10.00** Entertainment (27075) **10.30** Dr Katz (36723) **11.00** Ren & Stimpy (37365) **11.30** Rocky and Bullwinkle (86704) **12.00** Dominion Tank (77018) **12.30am** Benson (53940) **1.00** Wings (19785) **1.30** Laverne & Shirley (25834) **2.00** Entertainment (93327) **2.30** Dr Katz (72834) **3.00** Ren & Stimpy (99921) **3.30-4.15** Rocky and Bullwinkle (8406143)

UK LIVING

6.00am Kilroy (5319487) **7.00** Esther (5836926) **8.30** Going to Pot (8039162) **9.00** Gourmet Ireland (8068907) **9.35** Kate & Allie (8566617) **10.05** Jerry Springer (8049742) **11.00** Young and the Restless (8532907) **11.55** Brookside (4341568) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (9806452) **1.25** Crosswits (6176810) **2.00** Agony Hour (2839891) **3.00** Live at Three (6114365) **4.00** Infatuation (2771346) **4.30** Crosswits (3468384) **5.05** Lingo (90499618) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2784810) **6.00** Bewitched (2781723) **6.30** Brookside (6542487) **7.05** Choice Cuts (2626043) **7.35** Joker's Wild (6325655) **8.05** Street Legal (9746471) **9.00** FILM: Easy Prey (3336891) **11.00-12.00** Sex Files (4417549)

FAMILY CHANNEL

6.00pm Boogies Diner (6907) **5.30** Night Hood (5520) **6.00** Batman (2433) **6.30** Catchphrase (6013) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (9471) **7.30** Me and the Boys (2297) **8.00** The Beiderbecke Affair (19471) **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries (92097) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (42574) **11.00** Sirens (95029) **12.00** Trivial Pursuit (13834) **12.30am** Me and the Boys (75376) **1.00** Batman (40679) **1.30** GP (70308) **2.00** Black Stallion (39143) **2.30** Sirens (91230) **3.30** GP (32230) **4.00** Trivial Pursuit (20495) **4.30-5.00** Night Hood (54872)

MTV

7.30am REM Rockumentary (94346) **8.00** Mix (415988) **11.00** Star Trax (26574) **12.00** Greatest Hits (39556) **1.00pm** Music Non-Stop (88297) **3.00** Select MTV (62075) **4.00** Hanging Out (7636) **6.00** Dial MTV (4891) **6.30** The Big Picture (8471) **7.00** Star Trax (92051) **8.00** Take That the Hits (91029) **9.00** X-ray Eyes (71723) **10.30** The All New Beavis & Butt-head (74907) **11.00** Headbangers' Ball (63636) **1.00** Night Videos (1593765) **5.00** Mix (25037)

VH-1

7.00am Power Breakfast (3435758) **9.00** Cafe VH-1 (5259182) **12.00** Heart and Soul (1628029) **1.00pm** Vinyl Years (1531549) **2.00** Mike Rutherford (2608821) **3.00** Into the Music (1961433) **6.00** Happy Hour (1544013) **7.00** VH-1 for You (9480346) **8.00** Review (9499094) **9.00** Tina Turner (9582758) **10.00** Vinyl Years (9489617) **11.00** The Bridge (3718723) **1.00am** The Specials (9041563) **2.00** Dawn Patrol

CMT EUROPE

Country music from **6am** to **7pm on satellite, 24 hours on cable, including** **5.00pm** Saturday Nite Dance Ranch **6.00-7.00** Big Ticket

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran (46082617) **7.30** Zee Presents (37468013) **9.00** Film Chakkar (26171568) **9.30** Your Zindagi (25892029) **10.00** Tara (46090636) **11.00** Shakti (68001346) **11.30** FILM: Avtar (36445079) **2.30pm** Buniyaad (83956723) **3.00** Uroosa (68006891) **4.00** Zee Top Ten (68025926) **5.00** Zee Zone (27884075) **5.30** Sa Re Ga Ma (85981471) **6.30** Zee & U (83948704) **7.00** Hero Kal Aaj Aur Kal (27804839) **7.30** Galaxzee (83944988) **8.00** News (27985487) **8.30** Andaz (27892094) **9.00** Ajnabee (95395013) **10.00** Zee Horror Show (26152433) **10.30** Yaadon Ke Rang (26161181) **11.00** Commander (68026655) **11.30-12.00** Aap Ki Farmaish (36813094)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.
7.00pm Where Were You When the Lights Went Out (1968) (10507471) **9.00 The Maltese Falcon** (1941) (85288907) **11.00 Whose Life Is It Anyway?** (1981) (36905636) **1.00am Private Potter** (1963) (90726785) **2.40-5.00 Where Were You When the Lights Went Out** (1968) (20383579)

CNN/QVC

CNN provides 24-hour news and QVC is the home shopping channel.

PERFORMANCE

7.00pm The Meeting **8.00** Aria **8.30** *Richard III* with Laurence Olivier **11.30** Aria **12.00-1.00am** Art Farmer

BBC WORLD

News on the hour
8.05am The Big Trip **9.30** Network East **10.30** Top Gear **1.05pm** Horizon **2.15** Business **2.30** Newshour Asia and Pacific **3.30** Madhur Jaffrey's Far Eastern Cookery **4.05** Rough Guide to the Americas **5.30** Earth Report **8.05** Assignment **9.30** Tomorrow's World **12.10am** Newsnight **1.00** Newsroom **4.00** Headlines **4.05** Great Railway Journeys **5.00** Newsday

RUGBY LEAGUE 44
LONDON HOPE FOR
CAPITAL GAINS
IN PARIS MATCH

SPORT

BOAT RACE 46
MONEY ROW WILL
NOT SPOIL STORY
OF THE BLUES

THURSDAY APRIL 4 1996

Gooch joins list of candidates

Selector's job wrong one for Botham

By Alan Lee, cricket correspondent

IAN BOTHAM has always played the role of the people's hero. There were times, in his pomp, when nobody did it better. But to believe, as some influential voices have now advertised they do, that his input as a selector might resurrect the fortunes of the England cricket team is to both misinterpret the character of the man and to underestimate the nature of the job.

Botham will officially be confirmed today as a contender for one of two vacancies on the selection panel chaired by Raymond Illingworth. At least five other names — among them Graham Gooch, at the behest of Essex, his county — have been proposed and the Test and County Cricket Board expected more before the deadline at midnight last night.

A postal ballot, conducted among the 18 first-class counties, will decide the issue and an announcement is planned for the end of next week.

It will be the most competitive contest for selection vacancies in years, reflecting the turbulent times in the English game and the growing rebellion against established practices. Yesterday, however, one name was dominating the debate, testimony to the enduring perception that a man who could beat the Australians single-handed must be capable of planning so that others may beat them again.

It does not work that way. Botham was a staggeringly fine cricketer, the most exciting I have seen, but his game was based entirely on instinct, self-belief and God-given talent. It owed little to preparation and planning and, as was evidenced by his thwarted flirtations with captaincy, nothing to an empathy with the needs of others. Botham believed that everyone should play the game his way and, of course, very few could begin to do so. So, watching others play cricket bored him.

None of this is much of a recommendation for a role, under Illingworth, that would involve Botham in spending five or six days a week watching county cricket and a good deal of additional hours devoted to the "homework" of preparing reports on individual players. He would, by precedent, do all this unsalaried and, in addition, could not expect to continue the newspaper and television work in which he is expected to critically analyse all aspects of the England team.

Sri Lanka beaten 43

Perhaps he has not thought it through just yet. Certainly, that was the impression given by his simplistic assessment of the job as "a case of four or five guys sitting around a table the week before a game and throwing a few ideas around". Yesterday, however, Botham and his backers were making brave noises.

Botham revealed that his tax-exile in Alderney is about to end, thus lifting any restriction on the amount of days he can spend in England. He also said of his nomination: "I have never been more serious about anything in my life. I doubt if anyone cares more passionately about England than me."

I could not dispute that. Indeed, I have felt for some while that Botham should have some specific role with the England team, perhaps helping regularly with the mental approach of the players.

He would be in his element there, and the "drive and enthusiasm" championed by his proposer, the Derbyshire chairman, Mike Horton, would be properly channelled.

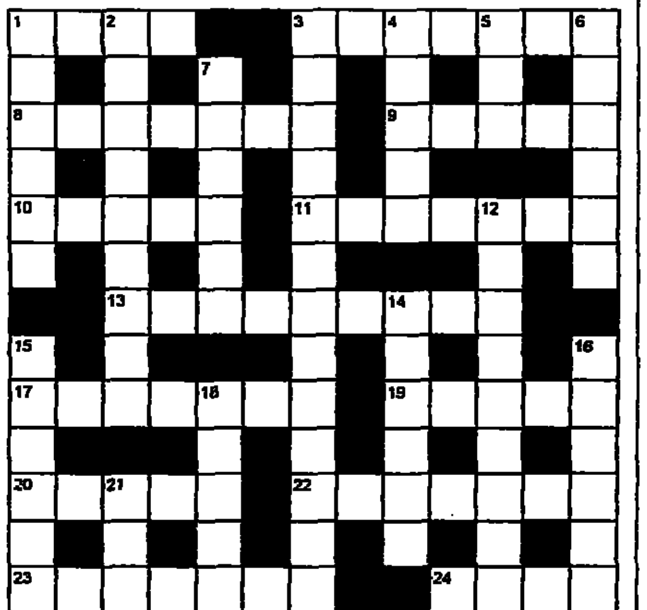
But I have also become convinced that to talk of him as a Messianic figure in management or selection is shallow and nonsensical. There may, superficially, seem something heroic about him joining what he has variously called "the Sanatogen set" and "the gin-soaked old dodderers", in search of a better future for England. But all logic cries that it is the wrong job for him.

Oddly, although he has publicly and consistently ridiculed Illingworth, personality clashes should not be the major disincentive. The climate is such that a cosy panel — the type, involving his contemporaries, Fred Titmus and Brian Bolus, that Illingworth would prefer — is to be avoided at all costs.

Illingworth may not feel that a current player is appropriate, yet there is much to be said for Derbyshire's second nomination, of their own former captain, Kim Barnett, and certainly for the inclusion of Gooch. This pair, knowledgeable, modern men of cricket, would, with the new coach David Lloyd, make up a most progressive panel, one based on logic rather than legend.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 747 in association with
BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS
- 1 Batsman's protection (4)
- 3 Mafia man (7)
- 8 Cloth screen (7)
- 9 Humble; modest (5)
- 10 Large entrance-area (5)
- 11 Drooping, limp (7)
- 13 Unscrupulously acquisitive (2,3,4)
- 17 Difficult, tricky (7)
- 19 Horse-race prize; special book illustration (5)
- 20 Sweet, spiced hot port (5)
- 22 Reversion to primitive type (7)
- 23 Nag (husband) (7)
- 24 Bird; an architect (4)

DOWN
- 1 Calm (one) down (6)
- 2 Foul play (5,4)
- 3 *Fanny Price* novel (9,4)
- 4 Light wood for models (5)
- 5 Broken flax; pull (3)
- 6 Saudi Arabia (joint) capital (6)
- 7 Vegetable; incentive (6)
- 12 A knight; Maurice —, French singer (9)
- 14 Plead earnestly (6)
- 15 Fat stomach (6)
- 16 Vicar's address (6)
- 18 Gangway (5)
- 21 Weapon for shooting (3)

PRIZES:
THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.
THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UKs second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrows second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe.
All flights are subject to availability.

British Midland

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address ....

....

SOLUTION TO NO 746

ACROSS: 6 Cheviot 7 Lynch 9 Depot 10 Theorem 11 Epoch-making 14 Impropriety 17 Built-in 19 Demur 21 Drink 22 Outcast

DOWN: 1 Leap 2 Virtuoso 3 Stitch 4 Glue 5 Enormity 6 Code 8 Homage 11 Explicit 12 Anecdote 13 Sinbad 15 Random 16 Fret 18 Take 20 Moat

In Tuesday's puzzle the clue to 12 down should have read Gloucester's son *(Lear)*.

MARC ASPLAND

Cambridge University get ready to sharpen up their preparation for the Boat Race on Saturday with a practice race against Goldie, their second-string crew, yesterday. Oxford opted for no more than a quiet paddle. Boat Race build-up, page 46

Brolin handed new reason to leave Leeds

By David Maddock

THE argument in favour of Tomas Brolin leaving Leeds United, the club he joined in November for £4.5 million, has long appeared a strong one. Now it has become compelling.

Brolin was warned last night that his place in the Sweden side was in danger if he did not quickly extricate himself from what has become an almost farcical situation at Elland Road. It is a message not to be taken lightly, as it was offered by Tommy Svensson, the Sweden manager.

Brolin performs a pivotal role for his country. With Leeds, however, he is as far away as ever from securing a first-team place, and relations with Howard Wilkinson, the manager, seem to have approached breaking point after an April Fool's Day prank, in which the player joked on Swedish television that he would return home, on loan with Norrköping, until the end of the season.

Now, that fantasy appears to have echoed reality, after Svensson confirmed that he has dropped Brolin from his next international squad, and would not pick him again until he had secured a move from Elland Road. "I think it would be good for Tomas to leave Leeds, because they won't let him play," he said.

"Because he is not playing, I won't be picking him for the next international game against Northern Ireland on April 24. I think he really needs to be playing regularly for the sake of his international position."

Brolin has confirmed that he will leave when a clause in his contract allows, at the end of the season. There is a small matter of the transfer fee, however, with Leeds intent on recouping most of their initial outlay. With Brolin struggling for fitness, and given such limited opportunity, that will restrict the number of takers. Parma, his former club, are said to be interested, as are Bayern Munich and Liverpool.

Hughes banned 43
Barcelona's advantage 43

Uwe Rösler, Manchester City's German forward, has set himself on course for confrontation with Alan Ball, the manager. Rösler was alarmed to read reports that he would have been left out of the side to meet Bolton Wanderers last Saturday, had he not been injured on the eve of the game. The suggestion was that Ball had been unhappy with his performance in the 4-2 defeat at West Ham.

Rösler's response yesterday was to strongly assert his return to fitness — and his claim for a place in the starting line-up for the derby match against Manchester United on Saturday.

Rösler said: "I spoke with the manager, and he said he didn't say my place was under threat. What is the truth, I don't know, I don't understand all the discussion — for me. I think I will be playing on Saturday. It is true that against West Ham I played a poor game, but before that I played well. My team-mates were happy with me and I am fit to play now."

Ball seems to think otherwise. He had hinted strongly that Rösler would be left out at Bolton, and Niall Quinn, Rösler's replacement, did enough to strengthen such a theory. Ball also has Mikhail Kavelashvilli, his new signing from Georgia, available to present an extra selection problem. Rösler has already hinted that he could leave if City are relegated, and being dropped for the most important game of the season is hardly likely to weaken that resolve.

England 'have the players to succeed'

GRAHAM GOOCH, the former England cricket captain, responded characteristically to his nomination by his county, Essex, to stand as a selector. "I would very much like to be involved," he said. "My heart and soul was with England when I played and was captain and, if I thought my views and my experience could help, then I wouldn't mind being involved.

"I don't think we [England] can say we have been playing very well lately. We have talented cricketers, but there is room for improvement. I don't put the blame on Raymond Illingworth and Mike Atherton. I think the players, collectively, have to take responsibility.

"I don't think everything is bad with English cricket. We have talent and we can beat people, although there is a lot of work to do."

Peter Edwards, the Essex secretary, said: "Our committee has thought long and hard before putting Graham forward but we feel he has a lot to offer, having played 113 Tests, 34 of them as captain, and because he is someone so obviously close to the game."

Ian Botham said he was "thrilled" to be asked. "I would love to serve on the selection panel because the big challenge now is to find a team and to make it turn England into a world power again," he said.

"I know some people have doubted my commitment, and thought I was pulling a few legs, but I doubt if anyone cares more passionately about England than me — that would be impossible."

Bruno is not on Lewis's agenda

By Our Sports Staff

A SECOND meeting with Frank Bruno — if he decides to fight on — would find no place on the agenda of Lennox Lewis, at least according to Lewis's promoter. Panos Eliades said yesterday: "It does not interest me. What interests me is Lewis-Mike Tyson and Lewis-Riddick Bowe. Lennox does not want Bruno. Bruno's a no-win situation — there would be no credit in Lewis fighting him again.

"Look at the way Bruno's treated Lennox, and the way Lennox treated Bruno when he fought him in 1993. The WBC ruled Bruno should fight Lewis, but he turned his back on him. Why should Lewis give Bruno the chance to participate in another championship fight?

"We want to make sure we get Tyson, as the WBC belt is important. I don't think Bruno deserves another chance. That doesn't make sense, although financially it would obviously be a good fight over here."

Lewis v Bruno for a second time would, in any event, be a long way down the road — and Lewis has the none-too-easy task of getting his hands back on the World Boxing Council title belt first. Meanwhile, Eliades has received a letter from the WBC re-assuring Lewis of a fight for his former title in September.

Amos Saunders, a New Jersey judge, decreed last month that the WBC could not sanction another heavyweight title bout unless Lewis was involved. Lewis makes his next appearance on May 10 against Ray Mercer, a former World Boxing Organisation champion, in New York.

"I just want my title back," Lewis said. "It will make me work harder for May 10 knowing the next fight is mine. I believe the British public are behind me 110 per cent.

"Nothing's for sure and I never put my eggs in one basket. I just want to keep busy, get my title back and show I'm the best heavyweight out there."

□ Paul Weir has vowed to regain his world light-flyweight crown. Weir faces Jake Matlala, from South Africa, at Everton Park Sports Centre in Liverpool on Saturday, April 13. It is a mouthwatering rematch after Weir lost the title in a controversial fight in Glasgow last November. The Scot was cut at the end of the fifth round and the referee, Wiso Fernandez, ruled that he could not fight on, but the WBO upheld Weir's appeal for a second contest as the Puerto Rican referee admitted he had made a mistake.

Lewis: determined

Under-fire Brittle gets full support of Bishop

BILL BISHOP, the Rugby Football Union president, yesterday re-entered the increasingly bitter conflict between Twickenham and England's top clubs by issuing a solid statement of support for Cliff Brittle, the under-fire executive committee chairman.

Brittle, who assumed the post in January, has been negotiating with the leading clubs about the game's future, but there have been suggestions of a rift between him and those clubs.

However, Bishop last night backed Brittle, saying: "He has my full and unequivocal support. He has a clear mandate from the committee to negotiate and that is what he and his delegation are doing. It has been agreed that these negotiations should take place on a confidential basis and we regret that some have seen fit to involve the media."

Brian Baister, the chairman and treasurer of the National Clubs' Association (NCA), which represent clubs in the third and fourth divisions of the Courage Clubs Championship, said: "The NCA have no difficulty in working under the chairmanship of Cliff, and we will continue to lend him our honest and public support. He has personally initiated a whole series of conciliatory meetings aimed at finding a solution."

Brittle and the RFU negotiating committee have held several meetings with English Professional Rugby Union Clubs, but have yet to solve problems that include whether or not there should be relegation from the first division.

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